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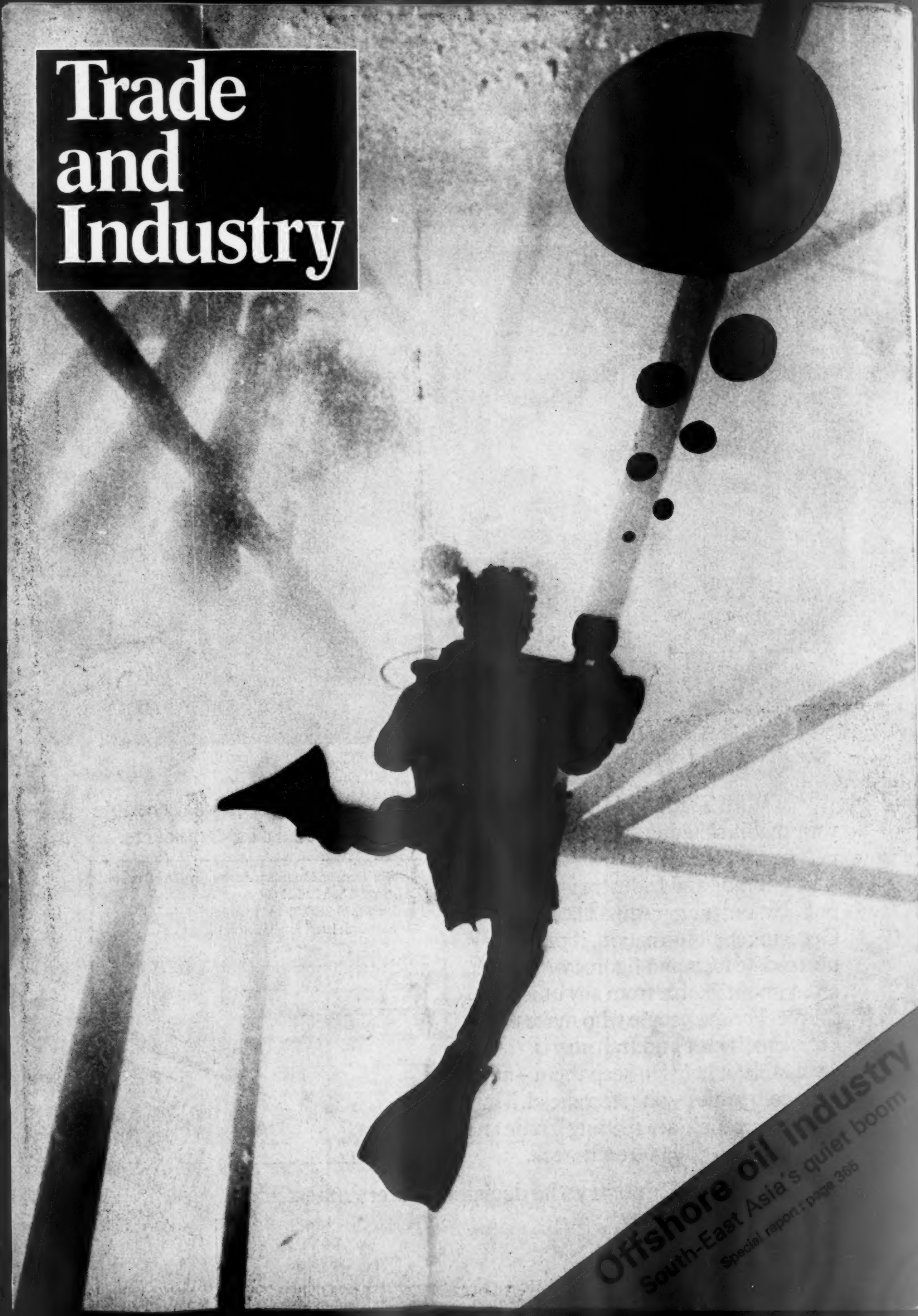

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Special report: page 365

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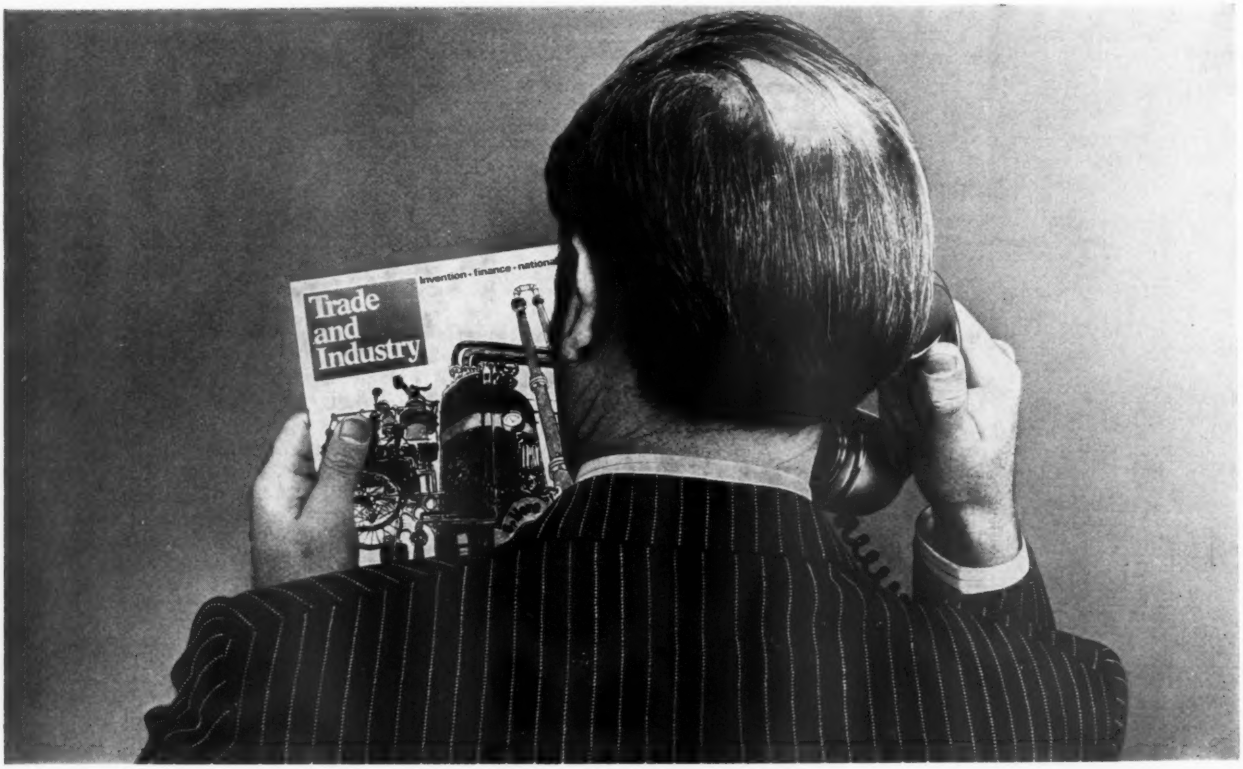

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Trade and Industry

6 February 1976

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection

Diving:
getting
down
to safety

Cover picture shows a diver on a fixed platform jacket. It is now just over a year since British diving regulations came into force, the first offshore diving regulations in the world, about to be copied by Norway. A feature on page 360 describes some of the ways in which the new rules have helped to improve safety, and points to some aspects where further amendments may be introduced (picture by Comex).

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Home News

Petrol – new monopoly investigation into aspects of wholesale supplies

John Methven, Director General of Fair Trading, announced on 2 February that he has referred certain aspects of the wholesale supply of petrol in the United Kingdom to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for investigation.

He has asked the Commission to report within two years.

Any person or organisation wishing to offer evidence in relation to the reference should write to: The Secretary, The Monopolies and Mergers Commission, New Court, 48 Carey Street, London WC2A 2JT.

Background to the Reference

The first Monopolies Commission reference on petrol was made in 1960 and the Commission reported in 1965, The main recommendations were:

1. Solus ties (exclusive supply agreements with independent dealers) should not exceed five years.
2. A limit should be placed on the acquisition of stations by public companies.
3. All retailers should be free to stock, display and sell brands of lubricants, kerosene and anti-freeze of their choice.
4. No petrol supplier should accept a commission or similar benefit in respect of sales or purchases by its retailers of tyres, batteries or accessories or make agreements obliging retailers to accept restrictions in relation to tyres, batteries and accessories.
5. Retailers on company-owned stations should normally be given leases or licences of three years' duration.

The petrol companies gave undertakings to implement these recommendations in 1966. At the first revision of the undertakings in 1968 the only major amendment was the cancellation of that section of the undertakings which restricted the companies' acquisitions of stations.

A second detailed review of the undertakings, commenced in the second half of 1974, is now reaching its concluding stages. The amendments proposed will in the main affect the sections dealing with company tenants and licensees. For companies which use licences to operate their stations, an arbitration scheme has been suggested to settle disputes arising from termination or non-renewal of licences, and its scope and terms are being discussed.

The new Reference

The Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection first announced on 31 July 1974 in a written answer that she was discussing with the Director General the possibility of a new reference on petrol. The new reference takes into account, among other things, the progress made on the second review of the undertakings and is limited to an investigation of three specific practices likely to be carried on by two or more companies accounting for at least a quarter of the market. The practices are:

1. discriminating between retailers in relation to the price at which, or the terms on which petrol is offered or supplied to them;
2. promoting schemes involving the selling or giving of other goods or the giving of trading stamps to persons buying petrol by retail or the giving to such persons of opportunities to enter competitions;
3. securing exclusive retail outlets by acquiring proprietary interests in petrol filling stations (or establishing such stations on land in which a proprietary interest has been acquired) and doing one or, at different times, both of the following things at any station in which such an interest has been acquired or which has been so established, namely – selling petrol directly by retail; or

   permitting another person to sell petrol there by retail for limited periods as a tenant or licensee subject to restrictions as to the petrol to be acquired or sold by him.

In this reference 'proprietary interests' does

small firms information service

Lord Melchett, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Industry, who has special responsibility for small firms, opened the seminar and exhibition on services for the small firm, at Burnley recently. He is seen (centre), with Mike West (left), of the North East Lancashire Development Association, which co-operated with the local Small Firms Information Centre, based at Manchester, in organising the event. James Smith, manager of the Manchester centre, is on the right. They are discussing *Trade and Industry's* special report on 'Services for the small firm' (published on 23 January).

not include an interest by way of security for indebtedness; and 'discriminating' does not include the refusal of credit on ordinary commercial considerations.

Main suppliers

The main UK suppliers of petrol are Shell Oil (UK), BP Oil, Esso, Texaco, Mobil, Conoco, Total, Petrofina and Burmah which between them have at least 4/5ths of the market. There are about seven or eight other companies with between one and three per cent of the market each.

The market

Overall UK sales of petrol in 1974 totalled 16.2 million tons (4,860 million gallons). For the first nine months of 1975 they were 11.9 million tons. Demand is currently falling by approximately 2.5 per cent per annum.

A Price Commission report on Motor Fuel Retailers' Margins was published on 19 August 1975.

Note

For the purposes of the reference, wholesale supply means supply to individuals or organisations for selling direct to the general public on the forecourts of filling stations and garages. Petrol does not include Derv.

A monopoly situation exists if either:

1 One firm accounts for at least a quarter of the total UK supply of a given good or service, or
2 Two or more firms, accounting for at least a quarter of the total UK supply of a given good or service, conduct their affairs so as to prevent, restrict or distort competition either between themselves or persons to whom they supply.

Reference to the Commission by the Director General is a neutral act and does not imply that the existence of a monopoly or any of the actions of monopoly suppliers are contrary to the public interest. This is for the Commission to judge on the basis of their investigation.

Previous monopoly references on which reports have not yet been submitted to Parliament are:

Indirect electrostatic reprographic equipment (referred August 1973).
Regulation of charges by scale fees by architects and surveyors (referred September 1973).
Building bricks (referred October 1973).
Wheat flour and bread (referred October 1973).
Frozen foods (referred June 1974).
'Diazo' copying materials (referred July 1974).
Insulated electric wire and cables (referred July 1974).
Restrictions on advertising by accountants, veterinary surgeons, stockbrokers, solicitors and barristers in England and Wales and solicitors and advocates in Scotland, (referred July 1974).
The two-counsel rule at the Bars of England and Wales, and of Scotland (referred July 1974).
Cat and dog foods (referred July 1975).
Ceramic sanitaryware (referred November 1975).

'Good prospects for UK tourist industry' says Peter Shore

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, said on 28 January that prospects for the UK tourist industry in 1976 are good.

Addressing a meeting of chairmen of regional tourist boards in London, Mr. Shore spoke of the 'high priority' which people in Britain accorded to holidays. He also referred to the increasing numbers of overseas visitors coming to Britain, including visitors on business.

'In the first nine months of last year there were over 1 million business visits,' he said, adding that business spending through hotels, restaurants, shops and entertainment contributed to the prosperity of local communities all the year round.

He forecast a still further improvement in 1975 in the balance of payments on the tourism account, which in 1974 had shown a favourable balance of £154 million.

Mr. Shore said: 'I am well aware of the vital contribution made by tourism towards the balance of payments. Overseas visitors spent £837 million in 1974 compared with the £683 million spent by UK residents going abroad. This favourable balance on the tourism account of £154 million is, in real terms, a handsome improvement in tourism earnings compared with previous years. All the indications are that this favourable balance will be further improved for 1975.

'Looking ahead, and at the tourism industry in particular, the prospects are good. Although its future depends on disposable consumer expenditure, and on the choices which people make in spending, one of the quirks of 1975, which looks likely to be repeated this year, was the high priority

THE QUEEN
NATIONAL
EXHIBITION CENTRE

The Queen unveiled a plaque last Monday at the formal opening of Britain's National Exhibition Centre at Bickenhill near Birmingham. Watching the ceremony are the Duke of Edinburgh (right) and Robert Booth, chairman of the National Exhibition Centre. An article on the Centre was published in last week's *Trade and Industry.*

Addresses of ECGD offices

The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) is a Government Department providing export credit insurance for United Kingdom exporters and insurance against political risks for new investments overseas. Although credit insurance is its main service to exporters the Department offers them a number of others. Firstly the Bank Guarantee scheme enables exporters who are eligible to obtain export finance from their bank at a special low rate. Major projects carried out by British firms in overseas countries can be financed by the buyer credit technique which gives the exporter the bulk of his payment on shipment of the goods. Similar to this is the line of credit facility which extends the buyer credit principle to include contracts often with an individual value as low as £10,000. ECGD now insures 35 per cent of all UK exports. For full details of all ECGD services contact Publicity Branch, ECGD, Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EL, telephone 01-606 6699 extension 258, telex 883601, or get in touch with one of the offices listed below.

Central London

London, EC1 to EC4, WC1 and 2, W1 and SW1.

D. G. Hake, Waverley House, 7-12 Noel Street, London W1V 3PB. Tel. 01-437 2292, Telex 24105.

South London

London SE, SW2–20 and W2–14, Kent, Surrey (excluding the administrative district of Spelthorne), East and West Sussex, the eastern part of Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and the Channel Isles.

T. W. Hawes, 320 Purley Way, Croydon, Surrey CR0 4XJ. Tel. 01-686 9921. Telex 946998.

North London

London N, NW, E, the southern parts of Essex, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, the Slough, Burnham and Datchet area of Berkshire and the Spelthorne district of Surrey.

C. W. Gentry, 593–599 High Road, Tottenham, N17 6SW. Tel. 01-808 4570. Telex 263615.

Belfast

The six counties of Northern Ireland.

R. H. Forsyth, River House, High Street, Belfast BT1 2BE. Tel. 0232 31743. Telex 74577.

Birmingham

Leicester, Nottinghamshire, Salop, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands, the southern part of Derbyshire and that part of Hereford and Worcester formerly known as Worcestershire.

F. Wilmot, Colmore Centre, 115 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 3SB. Tel. 021-233 1771. Telex 33132

Bristol

Dyfed, Powys, Gwent, West, Mid and South Glamorgan, Gloucester, Avon, Wiltshire, Oxon, Dorset, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. That part of Hereford and Worcester formerly known as Herefordshire, Berkshire except the Slough, Burnham and Datchet areas and the western part of Hampshire.

R. A. Bounds, Robinson Building, 1 Redcliffe Street, Bristol BS1 6NP. Tel. 0272 299971. Telex 44248.

Cambridge

Bedfordshire, Cambridge, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Suffolk, the northern parts of Essex, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, and the southern part of Lincolnshire including the City of Lincoln.

H. Watson, Three Crowns House, 72-80 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1NJ Tel. 0223 68801. Telex 81624.

Glasgow

Scotland and the Outer Isles.

F. R. Burge, Fleming House, 134 Renfrew Street, Glasgow G3 6TL. Tel. 041-332 8707. Telex 77130.

Leeds

Durham, Tyne & Wear, Northumberland, Cleveland, North, West and South Yorkshire, Humberside and the northern part of Lincolnshire.

W. Ford, West Riding House, 67 Albion Street, Leeds LS1 5AA. Tel. 0532 450631. Telex 55125.

Manchester

Gwynedd, Clwyd, Cheshire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cumbria, the northern part of Derbyshire and Isle of Man.

R. H. K. Hughes, Elisabeth House, St. Peter's Square, Manchester M2 4AJ. Tel. 061-228 3621. Telex 667756.

New York

In the United States of America exporters can obtain assistance from the Department's resident Representative for the USA and Canada.

J. K. Sedman c/o British Trade Development Office, 150 East 58th Street, New York 10022 USA. Tel. 212-593 2258. Telex 420543.

Neil Carmichael (left), Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Industry, seen at Warren Spring Laboratory with Doug Jackson, head of the WSL Materials Recovery Division, watching the household waste sorting system which was developed at the laboratory. Mr. Carmichael visited WSL with Gordon Oakes, his opposite number at the Department of the Environment, with whom he shares joint chairmanship of the Waste Management Advisory Council. The Ministers were given details of the industrial scrap and waste survey which the laboratory is carrying out to ascertain the feasibility of establishing regional waste recovery centres.

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which people in Britain accorded to holidays.

'Only time will tell whether this represented a splash of expenditure in a mood of defiance to economic tempests, or whether it reflects a more permanent change in priorities arising from the increased pressure on people arising from our modern industrial society.

'But I understand it is not simply a British phenomenon; people elsewhere are also tending more and more to regard a holiday as a necessity. Certainly increasing numbers of overseas visitors are coming to Britain – partly encouraged no doubt by favourable exchange rates, but reinforced by the attractions they find when they get here which encourage them to make return visits.

'Foreign tourists, of course, include business visitors and in the first nine months of last year there were over 1 million business visits to this country. There has been a rapid increase in the number of provincial centres providing conference facilities and to this the National Exhibition Centre is about to be added. Many business visitors come direct to these regional centres to attend exhibitions and conferences and the BTA plays an active part in helping to promote such events in overseas markets.

'The business which such facilities bring to an area through spending in hotels, restaurants, shops and entertainment can make a valuable contribution, not only to our balance of payments but to the prosperity of the local community, and this is business all the year round.'

Peter Shore dismisses British Airways appeal

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, has dismissed an appeal by British Airways against the Civil Aviation Authority's decision in respect of fares on the routes from London to Glasgow, Edinburgh and Belfast.

The effect of the decision is that the normal one-way fare on these routes will rise from £22 to £23 but on the services from Gatwick an off-peak fare of £21 will apply.

The current fare of £22 was agreed as an interim measure in November, pending a decision on British Airways' appeal.

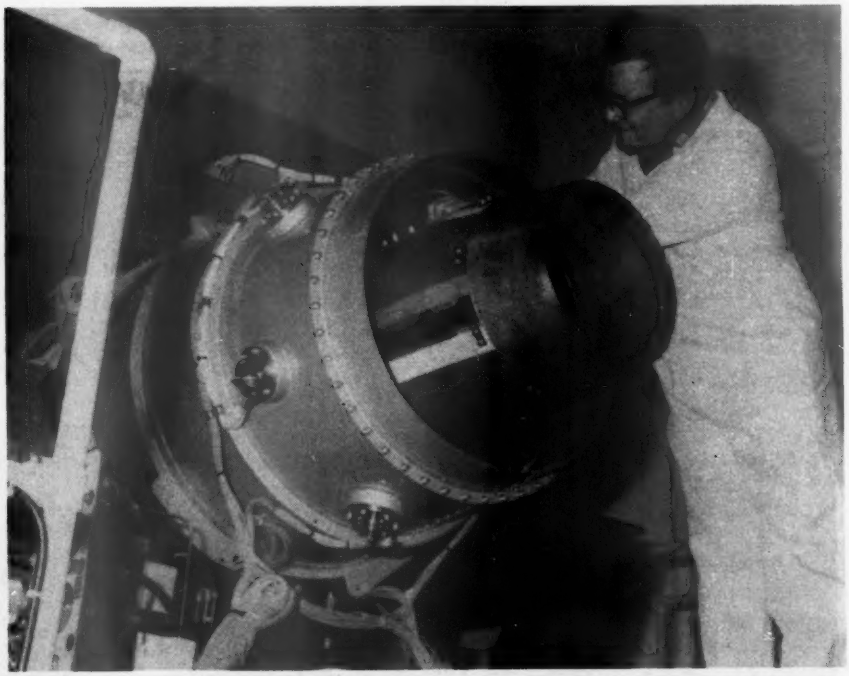
CAA reviews pilot incapacitation problems

The Civil Aviation Authority is reviewing the minimum crew requirements for small public transport aircraft. This review was put in hand in the light of the Piper Navajo Chieftain accident near Leeds on 6 December 1974, which appears to have been caused by the single pilot's heart failure.

The present requirement, under the Air Navigation Order, is for two pilots on any public transport flight undertaken by an aircraft with a maximum certificated weight of 5,700kg or more. The Authority's proposal, on which it is consulting industry, is that there should be an additional provision in the Air Navigation Order to require two pilots on public transport aircraft *below* 5,700kg when seven or more passengers are being carried.

Meanwhile the Authority is continuing its review of methods for predicting more accurately heart disease in pilots, and is cooperating in an investigation of this question which is being carried out by a working group of the Royal College of Physicians.

In July this year the Authority will establish a special clinic at its London Headquarters which will carry out comprehensive medical examinations of pilots, aimed at preventing disorders such as coronary disease and detecting them at an early stage when they can be treated. The precise examination procedures to be carried out (eg exercise electrocardiograms) will depend on the recommendations of the Royal College of Physicians.



This new Rolls-Royce fan engine for business jet aircraft, the RB 401, has made its first test run ahead of schedule. The engine is designed to meet aviation requirements of the 1980s in the 5,000-6,000 lb thrust range and meets all anticipated legislation covering noise and pollution. The RB 401 provides for the further development of business jet aircraft such as the Hawker Siddeley HS 125 – with a non-stop US coast-to-coast capability and trans-oceanic capability for a three-engined business jet. Specific fuel consumption in the cruise condition is some 40 per cent lower than that of engines which power the majority of first-generation business jets. RB 401 twin-spool design incorporates components already tested in the course of Rolls-Royce research programmes, together with experience gained on commercial engines such as the RB 211. Initial work on the engine has been funded by the company as a private venture. The engine is being developed at Rolls-Royce's Bristol Engine Division.

Doomsday Britain? It's a myth Eric Varley tells American correspondents

Difficult though our problems are, Eric Varley utterly rejects the Doomsday view of Britain which is being expressed on both sides of the Atlantic.

The Secretary of State for Industry told the Association of American Correspondents in London on 28 January.

'An objective look will reveal weaknesses in Britain, yes; but it will also reveal strengths which should mean that this country will remain a good one to live in and will remain a useful member of the international community. A similar balanced view is taken by a great many other people – including many American industrialists who, by investing here involved their own companies with Britain's future.'

Mr. Varley put forward three reasons why he thinks Britain will start getting things right and said that in each case the nation and the Government are facing up to immensely important medium-to-long-term issues.

Inflation

'I should be the last to claim that the problem of inflation has been solved in Britain, any more than it has in other complex industrial countries – although the response to the counter-inflation programme has been remarkable. We have made a good start in bringing the rate down.

'Even more important, there is a strong determination to see that this issue is tackled over the long term. Very few people here want to let things rip as from next August. That is the basis we need to build on and to check the evil.'

Industrial problems

'We are developing a new national psychology with our industrial strategy which is based on partnership between workers, management and Government. A lot of hard work and understanding will be needed to develop the strategy further – but when willingness to innovate is really needed history shows that Britain can manage it.

'The measures introduced in the April Budget – and extended since – are working well. Our progress is encouraging; projects already agreed and under examination represent additional investment of some £350 million, and we are receiving lots of new applications. The result will be expansion of industrial capacity where we need it most and a benefit to our balance of payments.

Devolution

'We can gain immeasurably if we can give people the greater share they want in running their own affairs while at the same time keeping the unity of the UK. Devolution is part of the wider task of enlarging democracy that we are also working for in industry.

'In my view the great majority of people in these islands care for the basic unity of the UK. That is why good sense will prevail. The debate will be a long and strenuous one. But it is on issues that need facing and it will be good for the health of the UK.

'These great issues are being squarely faced. This is a fact which can be decisive for this country's future.'

Counter-inflation policy: the half-way mark

'We are now exactly at the halfway mark in the present phase of counter-inflation policy, which began on 1 August last year,' said Robert Maclennan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, on 28 January. Mr. Maclennan, who was addressing the Financial Times Counter-Inflation Conference in London in place of Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said that over three million people are now covered by pay settlements within the pay policy. This national agreement on wage restraint was one of the most encouraging things that happened last year.

He continued: 'The sanction against excessive pay settlements introduced into the Price Code in the summer remains unused but, let me add, intact. As the Price Commission say in their report, published last week, an increasing proportion of price notifications contain details of wage settlements but in their experience the pay policy is being universally respected.

'The rate of inflation is unmistakably turning downwards. The December Retail Price Index showed an increase of 24.9 per cent since December 1974. This was the fourth successive monthly fall in the annual rate since the August peak of 26.9 per cent. The percentage change in the all items less seasonal food index over six months – which is perhaps the best indicator of present trends – showed its sixth successive decline and stands at 6.6 per cent or 14.1 per cent expressed at an annual rate.

'The provisional December wholesale output price index showed a continuing slowdown in the rate of increase of wholesale output prices for non-food products, which indicates favourable prospects for the RPI in the next few months.

'Trends in the wholesale output of food are less reassuring. Nevertheless, despite the effects of the last oil increases, the year on year figure for all wholesale outputs has con-

Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, examines a Dart engine component at the Rolls-Royce machining facility in Derby. With him (left to right) are Brian Waterhouse; Peter Jackson; Sir Kenneth Keith, Rolls-Royce (1971) chairman; Colin Hodgkinson; and Charles Hunt, convenor for the Rolls-Royce Derby Engine Division factories in the Midlands. During his visit to Rolls-Royce facilities at Derby, Mr. Varley heard presentations on the company's activities and met employees.

tinued to decline and now stands 20.2 per cent higher than a year ago, compared with the corresponding figure of 28.9 per cent in January 1975.

'Input prices, however, have been accelerating since May 1975. Recent movements have been strongly affected by the crude oil price rise in October and the renewed decline of sterling against the dollar. We can only expect greater pressure from commodity costs in the year ahead than in most of 1975.'

Mr. Maclennan acknowledged that 'our unenviably high rate of inflation' was one of the factors that have recently weakened our industrial performance and with it our international competitive strength. Solving the immediate inflation crisis would meet the short-term problems; but the longer-term problem was how to modernise and regenerate our industrial structure, and how to switch more of our resources to industrial investment and growth.

'The Price Code is an integral part of the counter-inflation strategy in this round,' he said. 'We have consistently made it clear that we are not prepared to make any fundamental changes in price controls during the currency of the Code, which is until the end of July, but the investment relief provisions, which would otherwise have expired, have been extended without their basis' being changed.

'What happens after July, obviously depends a great deal on how other aspects of counter-inflation policy develop. Clearly, we need to maintain policies that over a number of years will control domestic inflation and prevent any resurgence of high rates of price increase. We must reach national agreement on how to fulfil this objective.

Full discussion

'There will be full discussion. Whatever else may be said, price control has helped to sharpen the focus on the inter-relationships between price levels, profitability of enterprises and the capacity to invest, especially in manufacture. We have made it clear, for example, in the Chequers document on industrial strategy, that we intend to provide more scope for industry to invest – and a prior condition of that is an adequate profit margin. The Government is now committed to giving priority to industrial development over consumption, both public and private, and even over our further social objectives, since the achievement of the latter depends upon a strong and growing economy.

'It is easy to state the economic obvious – the need to shift resources into productive investment. Governments and economic analysts have been saying this for the last 20 years but we have continued to consume more and invest less of our GDP than most of our major competitors. Not only do we fall down in the allocation of resources to investment but also in our use of this investment. These factors lead to our work people producing less per head than do our major competitors; in most of our industries, each man or woman has far less machinery and equipment behind him.

'To achieve a shift in resources towards investment we must explain, far better than we do now, industrial realities. Without adequate profits, business cannot and will not invest. But if profits do not go into investment which creates jobs and growth at home, employees will resent them, especially at a time of restraint in incomes. Employers should communicate and explain more to their employees and to the general public; industrial participation can contribute a great deal to this process.

The social contract

'A year ago it used to be commonplace to mock the Government's commitment to the social contract, but it was through the process of constant dialogue between the Government and the TUC that we obtained the national agreement on pay and prices in July, which is now recognised as a major watershed in the annals of counter-inflation.

'Our need today is to broaden the basis of the national agreement to include investment, profits and participation.

'To obtain a national consensus on profits is thus a major priority. Without it we shall not obtain the productive investment we all need so badly. At a time when the profit squeeze has demonstrated its damaging effects on investment and jobs, there is a growing recognition on the part of employees that job security depends vitally on the profitability of their enterprise and that profitability is very much dependent on productivity, income restraint and industrial peace. On the other hand, at a time of income restraint, it is essential for employers to demonstrate to employees and to the trade unions that higher profits will be used to underpin their present jobs and to create future job opportunities for the unemployed and for their children.

'We are, I believe, still paying a price for what happened in the 1972-73 boom. Companies' net purchases of land and buildings rose from 1.4 per cent of investment in all fixed assets to 7.2 per cent. Direct investment overseas doubled in the same two years, though, to be fair, even in 1973, it reached only 62 per cent of British companies' earnings abroad. True, there were some exceptional circumstances, and such investment can serve useful purposes. Nevertheless, given this big increase in property investment and direct investment overseas, one cannot really wonder at trade union suspicions about where improved profits might go.

'It is this gap in mutual confidence which lies at the roots of our failure to invest and make better use of our investment. It is not just a matter of more or less gearing or more or less tax incentives or more or less Government interference.

'To bridge this confidence gap we need, I believe, both a visible link of some kind between profits and investment, and an imaginative programme for greater participation in industry. This will also help create the right atmosphere for economic growth.

'Men and women at work today are much less prepared to be passive onlookers, accepting what fate or the board of directors determine, than they were a generation ago. Indeed, it seems that it is increasingly becoming accepted in board-rooms that there is a great deal of scope for improvement in communicating information to the office and shop floor and that employees can make a valuable contribution to the running of the enterprise over and above their normal duties at the work-bench or desk. Moreover, if free enterprise is to thrive again it will need to win the commitment of all participants in an enterprise to the success of that enterprise.

'This commitment will not be won without some form of positive motivation. The time has come to recognise the stake that employees have in their company. It is an odd world in which an individual has the right to vote, to complain to the Parliamentary Commissioner against central Government maladministration, to enjoy a vast range of social and educational benefits, but is denied any right to participate within his enterprise in the management decisions which affect his working life. The exclusive privileges of share holders are anachronistic; the employee's investment of his labour, perhaps over the whole period of his working life, should be given proper recognition. To this end, the Government has established an independent committee of inquiry under Lord Bullock to advise on how a radical extension of industrial democracy in the control of companies by means of worker representation on boards of directors can best be achieved.

'A new industrial climate'

'If we want to generate a new industrial climate, not only is it necessary to extend worker participation in company decision-making, but the private sector – and also the publicly-owned industries – need to explain their case to the public at large. Reliance on published accounts is just not good enough – they are too obscure to the layman. The clearer the public perception of the linkage between pay, prices, profits, investment and jobs, the more realistic our policies can be.

'We have seen some streaks of light at last in a dark sky. There is wider agreement about our objectives as a nation than for some time past, and our divisions are not as dangerously deep as they were. Now we need to build upon this another stage in restraining inflation; a link between investment and profit recovery; a common effort to get unemployment down.'

'Battle against inflation moves on'

'The rate of inflation is falling at last,' said Alan Williams, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, speaking on 30 January at a meeting of the Welsh Consumer Council.

'Most of the credit must go to the three million workers who have already settled within the £6 pay deal,' Mr. Williams went on. 'If no one breaks ranks, if those still to settle recognise their duty to support their working colleagues who have already honoured the TUC package, then the rate of inflation should be down to 10 per cent by the end of the year.

'Next week industry starts its new contribution to defeating inflation, and in two weeks' time retailers throw their support behind the manufacturers in the Selective Price Restraint Scheme. A wide range of goods and services will be kept within a price ceiling for six months.

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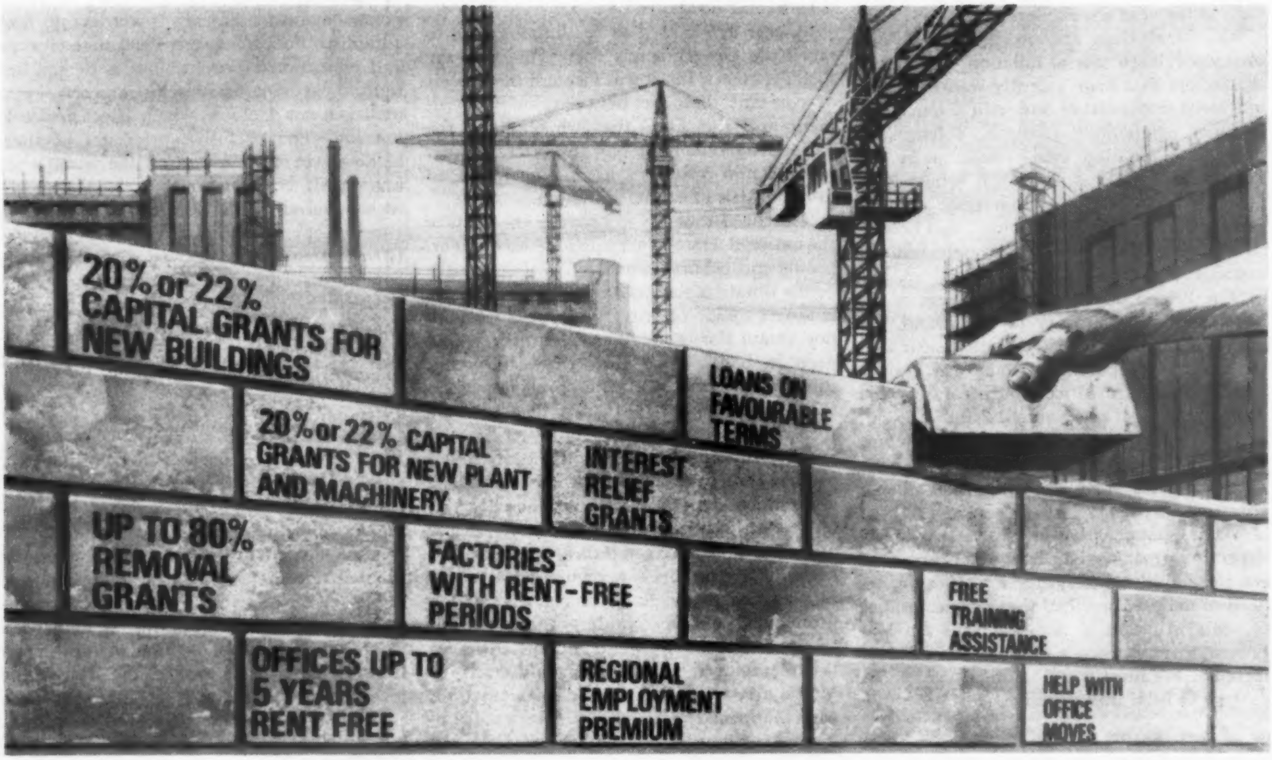
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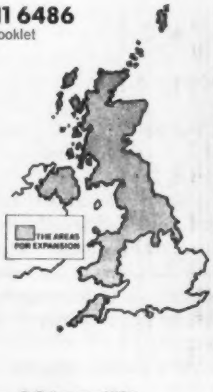
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Home News continued

inflation, we have recently been able to announce grants for five new consumer advice projects in Wales; four fixed consumer advice centres in Swansea, Bridgend, Merthyr and Wrexham, and a mobile unit for Central Clwyd. The total of the grants is about £100,000 and I am sure this investment in consumer advice centres will be very beneficial to Wales. We hope to see most of the projects operating in the first half of 1976, and I expect they will repeat the performance of other centres. They will obtain more cash compensation for the consumer than they cost. This is in addition to the immeasurable benefits of pre-shopping advice and consumer education.

'The Pay Package and the Price Restraint Scheme show that everyone in Britain has accepted the Chancellor's message – that we must all play a part in ending inflation.'

Higher incomes report published

Report No. 3* – 'Higher incomes from employment' – was published by the Royal Commission on the Distribution of Wealth and Income on 29 January. The news was announced in Parliament on the same day by Harold Wilson, the Prime Minister.

Mr. Wilson said:

'The report on higher incomes from employment by the Royal Commission on the Distribution of Incomes and Wealth has been published today as Cmnd. 6383. The report provides a factual analysis of trends in the levels and distribution of employment incomes exceeding £10,000 a year before tax and examines the economic and social reasons given for such incomes in relation to others. The reference did not require the Commission to make recommendations as to policy, but they do draw attention to the desirability of making more widely known and available for discussion the criteria by which top salaries are determined. In an addendum to the report three members of the Commission have given their views on rewards for management.

'The report represents the most thorough and comprehensive analysis available of the statistical information on higher incomes from employment and the Government welcome it as a valuable contribution to better public understanding of the facts about top salaries and the factors bearing on their determination. The Government are now considering the implications for policy towards higher incomes generally. They will undertake appropriate consultations before taking a decision on any new policy. There is, however, no question of modifying in the current period of pay policy the limitation on increases in incomes above £8,500.

'As I undertook in December 1974, the Government are also reviewing in this context the recommendations made at that time by the Top Salaries Review Body for higher salaries for chairmen and board members of nationalised industries.'

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* Royal Commission on the Distribution of Income and Wealth, Report No. 3, Higher Incomes from Employment, Cmnd. 6383, HMSO, price £3.15.

London and County Securities Group Ltd.

The Inspectors' Report on the affairs of London and County Securities Group Ltd., Capebourne Ltd., Standfield Properties Ltd., Hibernian Property Co. Ltd., Briman Properties Ltd., and Avon Land Securities Ltd., was published on 29 January.

The Inspectors, Mr. A. P. Leggatt, QC, and Mr. D. C. Hobson, MA, FCA, were appointed on 11 January 1974 under the provisions of Section 156(b) of the Companies Act, 1948, to investigate the affairs of London and County Securities Group Ltd. On 24 May 1974 the Inspectors were further appointed under the provisions of Section 172 of the Act to report on the ownership of the company.

The Inspectors were also appointed under the provisions of Section 165(b) of the Companies Act, 1948, on 10 July 1974 to investigate the affairs of the five other companies mentioned above, which had dealt either with London and County Securities Group Ltd. or its subsidiaries.

The Inspectors' Report was submitted on 7 March 1975.

A compulsory Winding-up Order was made against London and County Securities Group Ltd. in the High Court on 1 April 1974.

Copies of the Report are available from HM Stationery Office, price £6.62 net.

Minimum standards for crew accommodation on fishing vessels

Regulations which lay down for the first time in the United Kingdom minimum standards for crew accommodation on fishing vessels of 24.4 metres (80 feet) or more in length have been published by the Department of Trade. They will come into force on 1 January 1977.

The Regulations, which are made under Section 20 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1970, follow consultations with the representative organisations of fishing vessel owners and fishermen. They give effect to an International Labour Organisation Convention concerning crew accommodation on fishing vessels, which the UK proposes to ratify in due course.

They will generally apply to mechanically propelled fishing vessels of 24.4 metres or more in length, newly registered or re-registered in the UK, after 1 January 1977. They will also apply to fishing vessels reconstructed or substantially altered after that date and extend to some unregistered British fishing vessels.

The interval between the publication of the Regulations, and the date they come into force, is to give enough time to all concerned to take account of the new requirements.

The Regulations are the Merchant Shipping (Crew Accommodation) (Fishing Vessels) Regulations 1975, SI 1975/2220, HMSO price 40p.

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INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

New Trade Marks Standing Committee appointed

A new standing committee to advise the Government on trade mark matters has been appointed by the Department of Trade.

Establishment of the Committee was recommended by the Departmental Committee on British Trade Mark Law and Practice (the Mathys Committee).

The new committee, under the chairmanship of Douglas E. Parker, replaces the Trade Mark Liaison Group, which had a more limited membership and narrower terms of reference.

The Liaison Group was set up in 1962 with the limited purpose of advising on proposals published by the Commission of the EEC in that year for a system of Common Market trade marks, but the Patent Office has consulted the Liaison Group over the years on wider trade mark matters.

The Mathys Committee recommended in their report (paragraph 229) that the Liaison Group should be reformed as a standing advisory committee to advise the Government on trade mark law and practice.

One of the first tasks of the Committee is to advise the Department of Trade whether the Government should intervene in a trade mark case referred by a national court to the European Court of Justice for interpretation of the Treaty of Rome.

The members of the Committee are: Mr. Douglas E Parker, chairman; Mr. J. S. Bushell, Chartered Institute of Patent Agents; Mr. D Falconer QC, *The Bar Council; Mr. J. Joseph, The Institute of Trade Mark Agents; Mr. Martin H. Lowry, The International Association for the Protection of Industrial Property (British Group); Mr. D. O. Lewis, The International Chamber of Commerce (British Section); Mr. J. McGougan, *TUC; Mr. Anthony J. Pickford, LLB, The Association of British Chambers of Commerce; Mr. M. D. Snoxall, *The Law Society; Mrs. Ann Thomas, The National Consumer Protection Council; Mr. E. R. Wenman, The Trade Mark Patent and Design Federation; Mr. C. G. Wickham, CBI.

Those marked * are from bodies which were not represented on the Liaison Group, reflecting the wider terms of reference of the Committee.

The chairman of the Committee, Douglas Parker is a consultant to Shell and was formerly head of their Trade Marks Division. He is a member of the Council of the Trade Marks, Patent and Design Federation and was chairman of the Trade Mark Liaison Group and a member of the Mathys Committee.

The Mathys Committee was appointed in February 1972, and its report (Cmnd. 5601) was published in May 1974.

Patents endorsed 'Licences of Right'

Under Section 35 of the Patents Act 1949 the following patents were endorsed 'Licences of Right' on the date(s) specified.

Number	Grantee	Subject-matter
16 January 1976		
932,269	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	Improvements in or relating to hydraulic vehicle braking systems
1,087,881	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	Improvements in or relating to hydraulic braking systems for vehicles
1,317,335	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	Improvements in or relating to motor vehicle axles
1,089,752	Croll-Reynolds Engineering Co. Inc.	Filter improvement
1,286,314	Grosfillex S.A.R.L.	Seats
1,288,251	Henry Peter Augustus Moser	A combined hand truck and ladder
1,350,044	W. Strikfeldt and Koch GmbH	Melting furnace with open molten bath
1,387,743	Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft	Method and apparatus for making cinematographic recordings
21 January 1976		
1,113,610	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citreon	Distributing means for a fuel injection pump.
1,153,210	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citreon	Improvements in or relating to hydraulic braking systems.
1,242,876	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citreon	Drive unit comprising a two-stroke engine provided with a scavenging compressor.
1,217,211	Knotex Maschinenbau GmbH	Process and device for removing residual thread from a spool.
1,224,450	Knotex Maschinenbau GmbH	Device for examination and sorting spools.
1,124,473	Price Brothers and Co. Ltd.	Improvements in or relating to pillows of foamed material.
1,179,273	Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft	Apparatus for receiving a multicolour television picture.
1,222,959	Newhall Metal Products Ltd.	Sliding door gear.
1,316,681	Lake and Elliot Ltd.	Improved collapsible bar, rod or handle.
1,372,970	Etudes et Borneterie SA	Process and device for controlling the alternate winding and unwinding of a two-ended programme tape.
1,382,416	George Malcolm Byrd and Graham Jules Byrd	Improvements relating to tool supports for earth working implements.
1,387,561	Graham Francis Walker and Howard Walker	Improvements in or relating to implements for clearing snow or debris.

Any person who claims that the patentee at the time of endorsement of any of the above patents was precluded by a contract in which claimant is interested from granting licences under the patents may apply for cancellation of the endorsement on Patent Form No. 45 within two months after the date of endorsement.

E. Armitage
Comptroller

Clearance of merger proposals

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection has decided, on the information at present before her not to refer the following proposed merger to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973:

Tranwood Group Ltd. and Bank Bridge Group Ltd.

Plowden Committee reports on electricity supply industry

The electricity supply industry should be unified under a single statutory body, to be called the Central Electricity Board (CEB). This is the main conclusion of the Plowden Committee of Inquiry's report into the structure of the industry in England and Wales*, published 28 January.

The CEB should assume the functions and

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* Report of the Committee of Inquiry into the Structure of the Electricity Supply Industry in England and Wales, Cmnd. 6388, published by HMSO, price 95p net.

Have you a good industrial news picture?

Pictures are published in *Trade and Industry* each week showing developments in British industry. If your company has introduced an interesting new product, if you have received an award, if you have developed a novel manufacturing process, if you have produced the biggest or smallest or heaviest or (you feel) the best designed product, you are welcome to send us a photograph with a short news story. Contributions should be sent promptly – while the subject is still newsworthy – to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

responsibilities of the Electricity Council, the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) and the area electricity boards, the report says.

The report finds that the 'basic weakness' of the industry's present structure is 'slow and cumbersome central policy-making caused by divided responsibilities and a rigid statutory framework', but the Committee notes that there have been 'sharp increases in labour productivity' since 1967. The report praises the energy, expertise and 'strong commitment' of the industry's personnel.

New price limits for subsidised cheese

The existing retail price limits for cheese will be raised by 2p per lb from 30 January 1976. This is the effect of an order laid before Parliament on 28 January by Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection. The new limits are necessary because of the reduction in the subsidy on cheese announced on 19 January.

Prices in the shops will generally remain below the new limits. The extent to which retailers may increase their prices continues to be governed by the requirement that distributors' profits on cheese – the percentage difference between their buying and selling prices – should not be increased.

The Order is the Cheese Prices (Amendment) Order 1976 – SI 1976/97.

The new maximum prices cover cheese sold from bulk or pre-packed in the normal paper or polythene wrappers in random quantities. they are:

Category of cheese	Prices in pence per lb Farmhouse or matured	Other
Cheddar		
UK (including Dunlop) and other EEC	71	61
New Zealand		61
UK Cheshire	69	59
Territorials		
UK Caerphilly, Derby, Double Gloucester, Lancashire, Leicester, 'Wensleydale and White Stilton		61
Edam and Gouda		61

Scottish Office 'facts on oil'

The main points of action by the Scottish Office in the field of North Sea Oil and Gas Activities are outlined in a new publication entitled 'The Scottish Office and North Sea Oil and Gas'. The Factsheet – which is available to the public, price 15p post free – containing 16 pages has been prepared by the Scottish Information Office Reference Unit.

It includes information on planning aims to ensure the best use of land; industrial developments, giving a geographical breakdown of the number of jobs created by establishments concerned with offshore activities; the encouragement given by the Government for greater communication and liaison between the offshore oil and fishing industries: infrastructure services – housing, roads and other schemes; and facts on education and research.

Copies are available from The Reference Unit, Scottish Information Office, Room 2/89, New St. Andrew's House, Edinburgh EH1 3TD.

Average retail food prices on 9 December 1975

Average retail prices of about 80 important food items on 9 December 1975 are shown in the table below. The Department of Employment collects these prices from 200 areas in the UK on one specific day each month for the General Index of Retail Prices. They come from between 500 and 1,000 retailers representative of those from whom the great majority of the population make their purchase. Many of the items vary in quality from retailer to retailer and partly because of these differences there are considerable variations in the prices charged for many items. An indication of these variations is given in the last column of the table, which shows the range of prices within which at least four-fifths of the recorded prices fell. The average prices are subject to sampling error.

AVERAGE RETAIL FOOD PRICES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM
9 DECEMBER 1975

Average prices and price range (per lb. unless otherwise stated)

Item	Average price p	Price range From p	Price range To p
Beef: home-killed			
Chuck	65.8	58	72
Sirloin (without bone)	99.8	80	120
Silverside (without bone)*	86.4	78	94
Back ribs (with bone)*	60.3	50	72
Fore ribs (with bone)	58.5	48	68
Brisket (without bone)	58.5	48	70
Rump steak*	114.4	89	136
Beef: imported chilled			
Chuck	61.0	50	70
Silverside (without bone)*	78.9	72	88
Rump steak*	94.9	76	120
Lamb: home-killed			
Loin (with bone)	73.9	64	84
Breast*	22.2	15	30
Best end of neck	55.3	34	72
Shoulder (with bone)	48.9	42	58
Leg (with bone)	69.7	60	80
Lamb: imported			
Loin (with bone)	57.5	50	64
Breast*	16.6	12	22
Best end of neck	47.2	34	56
Shoulder (with bone)	40.4	36	44
Leg (with bone)	61.2	56	66
Pork: home-killed			
Leg (foot off)	66.3	58	78
Belly*	47.5	40	54
Loin (with bone)	79.2	70	88
Sausages			
Pork	37.8	32	44
Beef	32.7	28	38
Roasting chicken			
Broiler, frozen, 3 lb.	30.1	26	34
Fresh or chilled, 4 lb. (oven ready)	35.9	30	42
Fresh fish			
Cod fillets	61.1	50	70
Haddock fillets	64.1	54	76
Haddock, smoked, whole	59.9	50	70
Plaice fillets	78.7	65	90
Halibut cuts	107.5	80	140
Herrings	30.5	24	38
Kippers (with bone)	39.6	32	48
Fresh vegetables			
Potatoes, old, loose			
White	7.5	6½	8
Red	8.0	7	9
Potatoes, new, loose	†	—	—
Tomatoes	28.1	24	32
Cabbage, greens	8.2	6	11
Cabbage, hearted	7.8	5	12
Cauliflower or broccoli	16.1	8	25
Brussels sprouts	11.4	9	15
Peas (b)	†	—	—
Runner beans (b)	†	—	—
Carrots	6.8	5	9
Onions	9.9	8	12
Mushrooms, per ¼ lb	11.0	9	13
Fresh fruit			
Apples, cooking	12.7	10	15
Apples, dessert	14.2	12	18
Pears, dessert	16.5	14	20
Oranges	14.1	10	18
Bananas	15.7	14	18
Bread			
White, 1¾ lb wrapped and sliced loaf	16.4	14	17½
White, 1¾ lb unwrapped loaf	17.1	15	19
White, 14 oz loaf	11.5	10½	12½
Brown, 14 oz loaf	12.3	11½	13
Flour			
Self-raising, per 3 lb	19.4	17	24
Bacon			
Collar*	62.7	54	72
Gammon*	83.4	72	92
Middle cut, smoked*	75.4	68	86
Back, smoked	84.1	68	94
Back, unsmoked	81.2	62	95
Streaky, smoked	64.5	56	76
Ham (not shoulder)	105.8	88	128
Pork luncheon meat, 12 oz can	27.1	19	33
Canned (red) salmon, ½-size can	67.7	57	75
Milk, ordinary, per pint	8.5	—	—
Butter			
New Zealand	32.3	30	34
Danish	35.7	33	40
Home produced	36.5	32	42
Margarine (a)			
Standard quality (without added butter)	23.8	22	26
Lower priced	22.4	21	24
Lard	19.7	17	24
Cheese, cheddar type	47.1	40	52
Eggs, per dozen			
Large	45.2	41	50
Standard	41.2	38	44
Medium	37.6	35	40
Sugar, granulated, 2 lb	22.8	21	25
Instant coffee, per 4 oz	40.7	38	47
Tea, per ¼ lb			
Higher priced	12.7	12	13
Medium priced	10.5	9½	12
Lower priced	9.5	9	10

* Or Scottish equivalent.
† Insufficient or no quotations.
(a) Now quoted at average price per lb.

(b) Peas and runner beans discontinued from January 1975.

Source: Department of Employment.

Technology

Diving: getting down to safety

by Jennifer Clarke

Commander S. A. (Jackie) Warner, senior diving inspector at the Department of Energy, says, 'There are bold divers. But you do not find many old, bold divers' – a wry judgement, based on many years diving experience.

The statistics give reason enough to discourage bravado. Nineteen divers have now died, working in the British section of the North Sea oilfields. But it is hoped that new regulations have at least helped to introduce safer conditions.

Underwater rules

The Offshore Installations (Diving Operations) Regulations 1974 came into force just over a year ago, followed three months later, by the Merchant Shipping (Diving Operations) Regulations 1975. Up till then, Cdr. Warner had been the only diving inspector employed by the government but he now leads a small specialist team, investigating accidents to divers and visiting installations to ensure that the new rules are being observed.

Inexperienced doctors

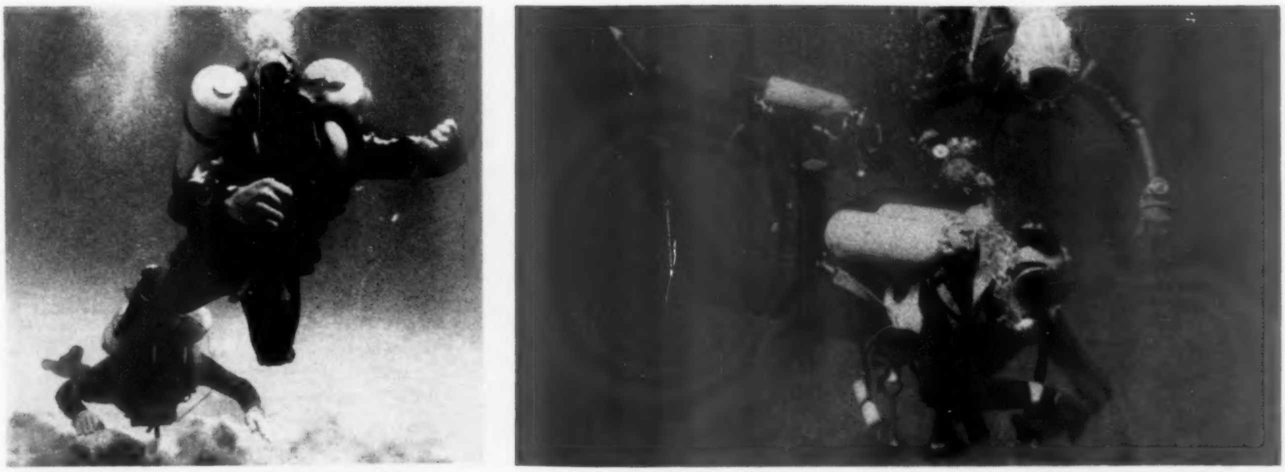
In the past, some divers received inefficient medical examinations or inadequate treatment. This was because the doctors involved had little or no experience of the conditions under which they worked or the exceptional stresses involved. In one case this led to a fatality when a man known to have heart and respiratory diseases was issued with a medical certificate. Pneumothorax, a fairly typical diving casualty, (where an air bubble is trapped outside a punctured lung) was, on another occasion wrongly diagnosed. The doctor treated it as pneumonia and the patient died.

Under the new regulations, a certificate of medical fitness can only be issued by an approved doctor.

Attraction of high earnings

It was also true that, until last year, lack of training and experience led to some fatalities as the prospect of high earnings encouraged false claims. One man said he had been a trained diver, after apparently picking up the jargon in pubs. He drowned at a depth of 44 ft, after pulling his mask off, because, it is believed, he panicked. There was a similar incident in the Norwegian sector, where the diver reached a depth of 140 ft before he slipped his mask off, suffering from nitrogen narcosis. This is a condition, nicknamed 'rapture of the deep' when below a certain depth, the nitrogen in the compressed air becomes narcotic, producing symptoms rather similar to drunkenness. Unfortun-

The three centres which have now had their training programmes approved. Left to right: two divers on the commercial diving course at Fort Bovisand Underwater Centre, Plymouth; student divers at Prodive, St. Austell preparing equipment; and diving training at the Underwater Training Centre at Loch Linnhe.



Up till now, most British divers received their training from the Royal Navy. Left; Royal Naval frogmen working from HMS 'Hermes.' Right: on holiday from the North Sea, professional divers using compressed air in the Mediterranean (photo Comex-John Brown.)

ately, there is a further parallel with alcohol in that people react in various ways, so that it is not always possible to predict at what depth an individual diver will be affected.

The new regulations specify that each diver must keep a log book, which will give precise details of every diving operation and including such details as the name of the diving supervisor, the maximum depth reached on each occasion, the time spent under water, the type of equipment and breathing mixture used and the decompression procedures followed on each occasion. This should effectively prevent people from pretending to an experience which they do not have.

At the same time, the Training Services Agency have introduced a national system for trainee divers, so that those who reach a high level of skill can now be issued with a nationally recognised certificate. So far three diving centres have had their training programmes approved; the Underwater Training Centre at Loch Linnhe, Fort Bovisand Underwater Centre, Plymouth and Prodive Ltd., St. Austell.

The problem of cold

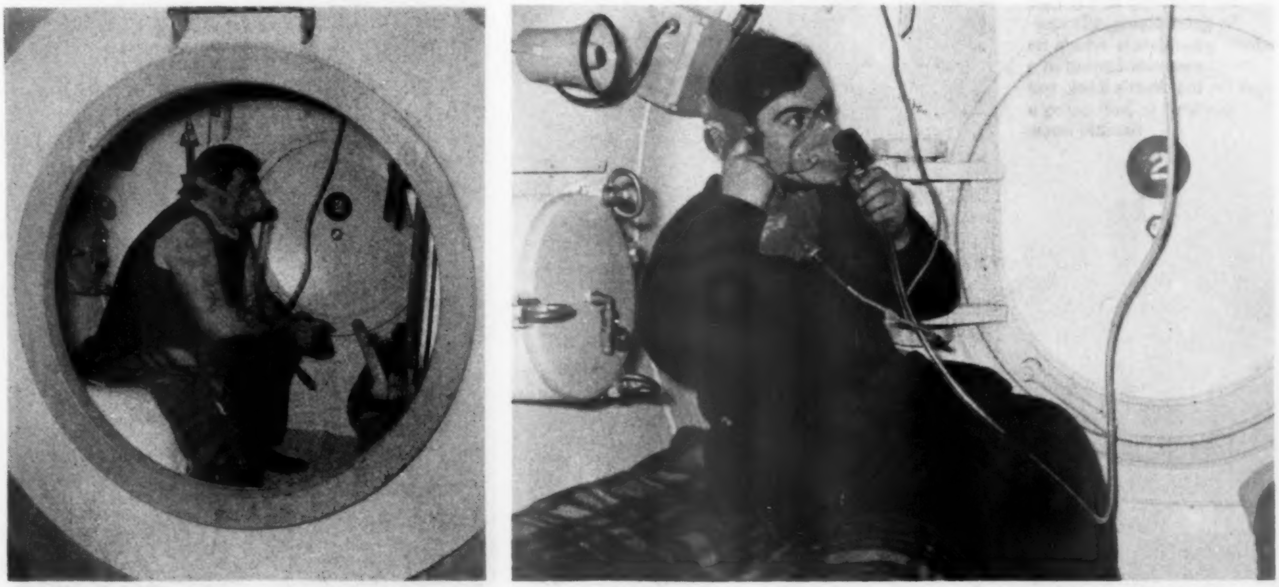
Not all accidents can be readily explained. A partial cause, one that has perhaps been underemphasised, could be the cold itself. Until recent years deep diving experience was largely based on the Gulf of Mexico, obviously warmer than the North Sea, where below a depth of about 100m, the temperature stays at a steady 4-5 decrees C all year round. This means that not only is the diver working in a cold environment, but he is breathing a mixture of gases which, if unheated may make him more sensitive to cold.

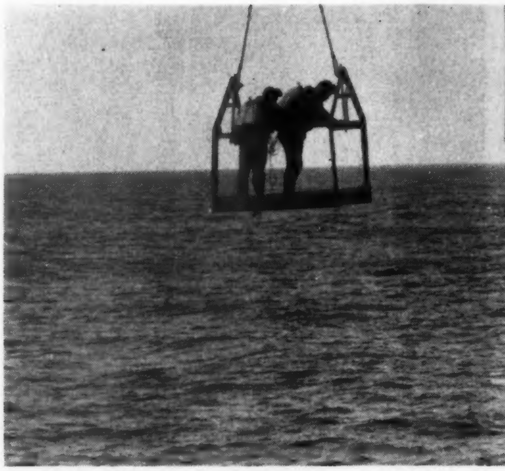
Since compressed air becomes narcotic under pressure it is not used below a maximum depth of 50m. For deeper dives, helium is substituted for nitrogen, so that the diver breathes an oxy-helium mixture. As the divers are transported down to the work site using a diving bell and the pressure increases, the body tissues become saturated with the gas mixture – hence the term 'saturation diving'.

The oxy-helium mixture is a better conductor of heat than the normal air mixture – in other words, in cold conditions, if no additional heating is provided, it will increase the feeling of cold.

Cdr. Warner now considers cold to be a greater danger than at first realised. He suspects it was a very significant factor in one or two accidents, which were originally attributed to panic, or loss of consciousness for some unknown reason. There is some evidence to suggest that a combination of cold and hard work can induce

Divers undergoing treatment in the decompression chamber after surfacing from diving operations.





Two divers using a semi submersible floating drilling platform

a condition in which, although there is plenty of oxygen in the lungs, the human body is just not taking it up. Whether or not cold can cause a contraction in the blood vessels leading from the lungs, is not yet known, but whatever the explanation, it can cause fainting and did, in one case, lead to death.

Amendments to the diving regulations in the future will include specific details about cold, specifying that for deep diving at least, body heating must be provided, though without necessarily specifying what form it should take. (It could for instance be a hot water suit or electrically-heated suits. Heating of the respiratory gases will also be required under some contions.) The conductivity of helium also means that it can transfer heat more effectively. This was realised when two divers were lost recently due to overheating. As a result, the Department of Energy's Diving Inspectorate issued a general warning about the dangers of extreme temperatures in a helium atmosphere.

Oxygen under pressure

More is now known about the behaviour of high pressure oxygen. Although it is mixed with helium before it reaches the diver, in some circumstances the pure gas travels through pipes to a control panel. In one case in Norway, the high pressure oxygen, which was switched on with a ball valve, burst the flexible hose and started a fire, next door to a chamber in which four people were being decompressed. If the pressure in the chamber had suddenly been lowered, these divers would certainly have died.

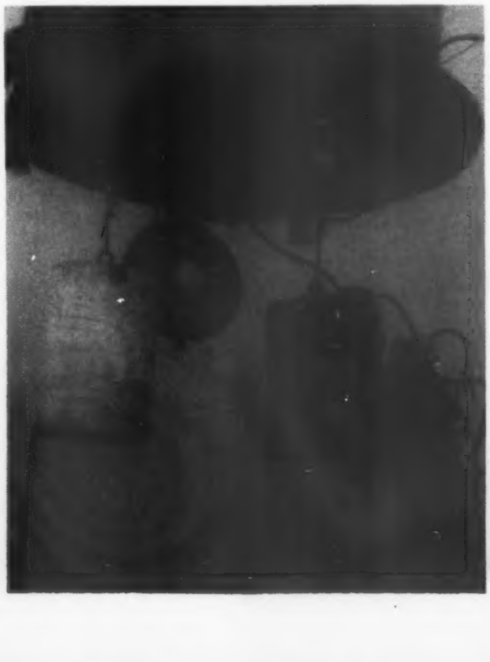
In a further case in Canada, oxygen under high pressure was passed through a dirty filter and ignited, causing a fire.

Evidence of this sort has led Cdr. Warner to suggest that something about the safety of oxygen under high pressure might be included in the amendments to the diving regulations. It has also drawn attention to fire fighting equipment on the installations, which in the past, could not cope adequately with an oxygen explosion there were, for instance, no breathing sets for going into the smoke.

Bell controls

It is possible that there may also be modifications to the regulations on testing bells and bell handling systems. Used in saturation diving, the bell is a sort of pressurised lift which, in the North Sea, may take the diver down as deep as 650 ft. In January 1974 one of these bells suffered a mechanical failure. It should have been possible for the people inside to allow the bell to rise to the surface, at a controlled rate.

Divers returning to the bell. In deep diving, the oxy-helium gas mixture which he breathes is not carried in a tank on the diver's back, but pumped to him along a flexible hose.



Commander Warner retired from the Royal Navy before working for the Ministry of Defence. He became the first diving inspector at the Department of Energy in January 1974, and his diving experience covers instruction, operational research and experiments for the Royal Navy. He spent two years diving off the east coast of Malaya testing shark repellent. This involved using a chemical irritant similar to tear gas, simulating a putrid shark and releasing an octopus-like ink. Rapid return to the diving bell was advisable.

For reasons not fully understood, the divers shed their emergency weights too fast, with tragic results.

Decompression tables

As the divers are only too well aware; at a depth of 100m, their bodies are subjected to 10 times the pressure under which we normally live and work. At this pressure, the gas mixture that the diver breathes is 'taken up' by the body tissues. Unless the pressure is then reduced at a slow and controlled rate, the gas will form bubbles in the joints or even in the blood vessels causing decompression sickness, known as 'the bends' which can, in bad cases, be fatal. To avoid this, if the diver has been operating at a depth of say, 100m for half-an-hour, he must spend 7 to 8 hours in a decompression chamber. If he has worked for longer he may need to spend a period in the chamber of up to a week. In the case of the accident with the bell, the divers should have been familiar with the rate at which the pressure could be reduced. It is not possible to know what happened but they may have panicked or the instructions for shedding the weights may not have been fully understood.

It has been estimated that divers trained in saturation diving techniques will be needed at the rate of 120 a year until 1980. Of the total of about 1,000 already working in the British sector of the North Sea, about 50 per cent are British and a high proportion of these are ex-servicemen. To help train new divers, the Underwater Training Centre at Loch Linnhe was opened in August last year, from capital provided by the Manpower Services Commission. By the end of November, the first ten men had received their certificates under the national system introduced by the Training Services Agency. But their basic air diving course is only the first step. It will be another year before they can apply for the mixed gas deep diving course. Until then they must work in shallow water.

Meanwhile £850,000 worth of mixed gas, deep diving training equipment is soon to be installed at Loch Linnhe, so that divers can be trained at depths down to 150m, preparing them for the immense depths of the North Sea and the oceans of the world.

Top left: a diver going to help a disabled tug. The accident happened as the tug was helping to lay anchors at the end of a rig move, when a top rope became fouled on the tug's propellor.
Top centre: new generation 'Mayday' radio telephone, claimed to be low in cost, portable and buoyant. Transmissions on the international distress frequency can be received at distances of more than 1,000 miles.
Below diver working on a flanged riser connection (photo Comex).

Technology News

Weights check on diving bells

No diving is to take place from diving bells similar to the one used in the fatal accident on the vessel *Smit Lloyd* until the weights have been properly secured, announced Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, on 28 January.

Mr. Benn was replying to a Parliamentary Question about the death of a diver operating from the vessel *Smit Lloyd* on 17 January 1976.

He said: 'The two divers involved in this incident were working on a flow line in the Argyll field. They were operating from a diving bell at a depth of 78m when the weights on the bell broke away. The bell surfaced rapidly and one man died from the consequent decompression. The other is still seriously ill.

'The Procurator Fiscal is investigating the causes of the accident in conjunction with a Diving Inspector from my Department, and with the full co-operation of the diving company and ship's Master. Once their investigations are complete the Lord Advocate will be able to consider holding a fatal accident inquiry either under the provisions of the Continental Shelf (Jurisdiction) (Amendment) Order 1975 or, when enacted, under the retrospective powers contained in Clause 1(2) of the Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths Inquiry (Scotland) Bill.

'In the meantime the Director of the Petroleum Engineering Directorate of my Department has given instructions that no diving is to take place from similar bells until the weights have been properly secured.'

(See also 'Diving: getting down to safety', page 360.)

Department of Industry survey into pallet wastage

A survey into the wastage of pallets in the UK has been started by the Department of Industry. This project has been recommended by the Department's Committee for Materials Handling as part of its policy of encouraging industry to reduce unit costs. The Committee's Steering Panel, set up to oversee the project, has laid down the terms of reference for the survey, which is to be carried out by the National Materials Handling Centre, engaged as consultants by the Department.

The survey will collect information on the numbers of pallets 'wasted' annually and in current use. Primarily concerned are timber pallets, made mostly from imported woods and representing our annual foreign exchange outflow of some £15 million. Alternative designs and methods of controlling the annual costs of pallets will be investigated. A report of the findings with recommendations for future action is expected by the middle of this year.

The Steering Panel, under the chairmanship of Mr. R. L. Whitley of the John Lewis Partnership, and former National Chairman of the Institute of Materials Handling includes representatives of Government departments, manufacturers, and users.

The terms of reference include:

The estimation of the number of timber pallets, and equivalent pallets of other materials, in current use in the nation's distribution system. (This specifically excludes metal cage and box pallets).

The estimation of the numbers of such pallets that are fed into the system each year.

The estimation of the number of pallets lost to the national system, each year. ('Lost' is interpreted to cover only those which perform no further function as pallets in the UK.)

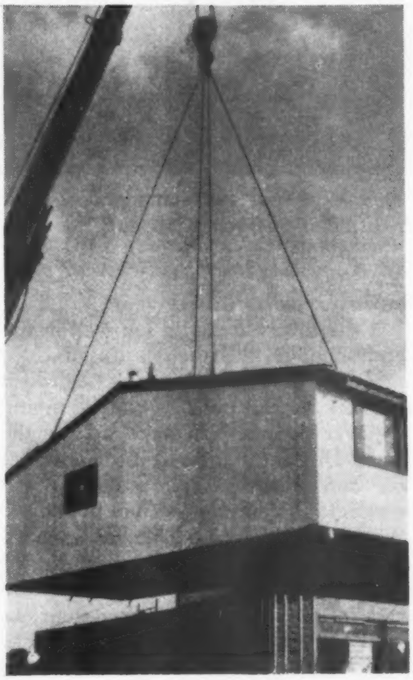
The estimation of the proportions of the total lost each year due to (a) wearing out; (b) other causes.

The consideration of alternative designs and materials together with the potential benefits, of any, resulting from their wider use.

The investigation of cost-effective methods of controlling the use of pallets, and to estimate their potential benefit to the nation as a whole and to the companies which use pallets.

The recommendation of changes that might be made to improve current practice to achieve any potential savings.

The consideration of the best methods of implementing any recommended changes in use and practice.



System built houses from the Hallam Group of Nottingham are being used to provide quick, economical accommodation in Aberdeen. They are also being used to replace some of the old-style prefabs outside Nottingham. Described as Volumetric housing, the system conforms with the Department of the Environment Bulletin 16 and carries NBA approval.

Do it yourself in metric

The Metrication Board have now produced a set of cards, to help people who do their own home decorating. Bricks, concrete building blocks, central heating and plumbing, tins of paint, tools and fasteners, wood and board, metric units of measurement and miscellaneous materials are all included and give guidance on the new units and sizes available as well as imperial equivalents.

The cards, which give information from the standard sizes for sinktops to the thickness of sawn hardwood are available from the Metrication Board, 22 Kingsway, London WC2B 6LE.

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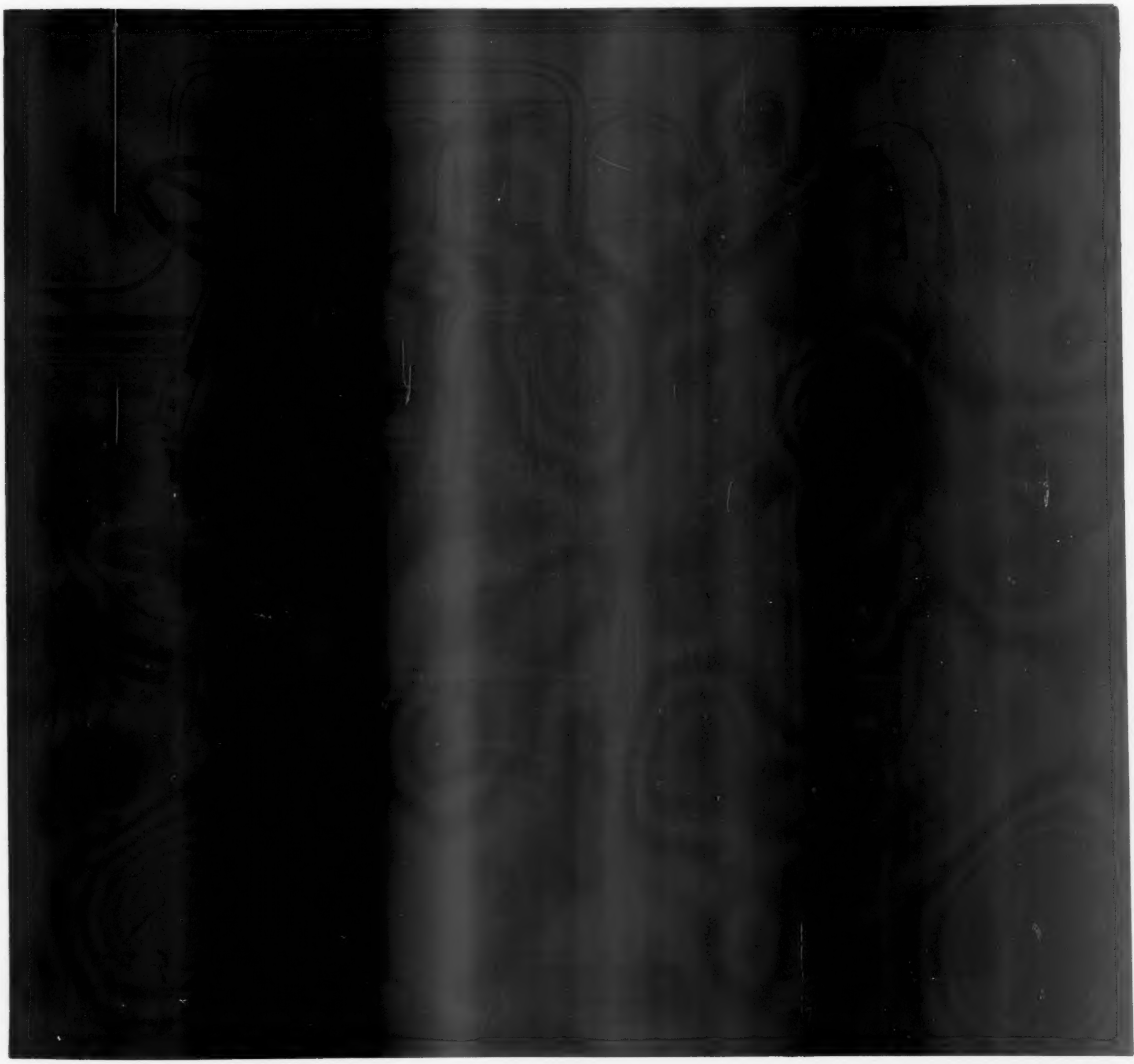
Trade and Industry special report

South-East Asia's quiet boom



South-East Asia's quiet boom

On the eve of this year's Offshore South-East Asia exhibition, David Smallman, Second Secretary (Commercial) at the British High Commission in Singapore, reports on the development of the oil industry in the Asia-Pacific area.

In 1976 Offshore South-East Asia is centred on Singapore. This will be particularly true from 17-20 February when the island republic will be the venue of the oil industry's first major conference and exhibition outside the United States and Europe.

The region, as seen in the major oil company boardrooms, is in effect the Asia-Pacific area stretching from Japan in the north-east to the Indo-Pakistan sub-continent in the north-west, and to Australasia in the south. The area thus includes Indo-China, Thailand and the Malaysian Peninsula, and the island chain composed of Indonesia and Papua-New Guinea. This covers more than a dozen nations and encompasses a large proportion of the world's population.

Commercial production of oil has been under way for more than 50 years in this region, particularly in Indonesia, and today the area produces around 2.5 million barrels of oil per day. There are at least 90 potentially productive sedimentary basins, most of which have not yet been explored, and forecasts based upon known reserves indicate that production in the Asia-Pacific region could reach 9 million barrels per day by 1985. With world production of crude oil around 85 million b/d, the Pacific Basin is likely to be producing 10 per cent of the total output by the early 1980's.

There has been in the region what is described by a number of commentators as a 'quiet boom'. There is no one reason why this has been so. The escalation in the price of oil is a relatively recent phenomenon which has an on-going effect rather than being an immediate cause in itself.

The countries of the region can, nevertheless, be expected to make every effort now to encourage development in order to reduce their dependence on external energy sources. Geological conditions are suitable and there is a large offshore acreage in which most of the potential petroleum-bearing strata are in depths of less than 600ft. This means that the costly platforms and structures necessary in the North Sea are not required here. Furthermore there is good reason to believe that the Indonesian production-sharing contract has helped towards stabilising the industry in the region and provided an equitable model upon which other nations are planning their petroleum industry.

1975 was a quiet year and one in which the cold winds of world recession made themselves felt, even in the exploration industry which has previously gone through a period of growth. In direct contrast to the previous year when exploration rigs were difficult to find, even at a premium, there were rigs without contracts; and some are still in building with no work to go to. With half a dozen or more rigs idle or under repair in Singapore, the industry's exploration teams are ready to take up the slack again, and indications were, around the end of 1975, that the pattern of activity would pick up by mid-1976.

These indications look now like becoming fact. The Indian government is keen to develop the Bombay High field; and drilling in the Maldives, having shown positive indications of hydrocarbons late last year, prompted Air Maldive in December to position a helicopter in the republic to support the existing exploration rig in anticipation of a second. The Chinese People's Republic is exploring with four offshore rigs and has two 'Asia' Class ETA Jack-up rigs being built in a Singapore yard. The Australian general election result on 13 December gave positive encouragement that development might soon go ahead there.

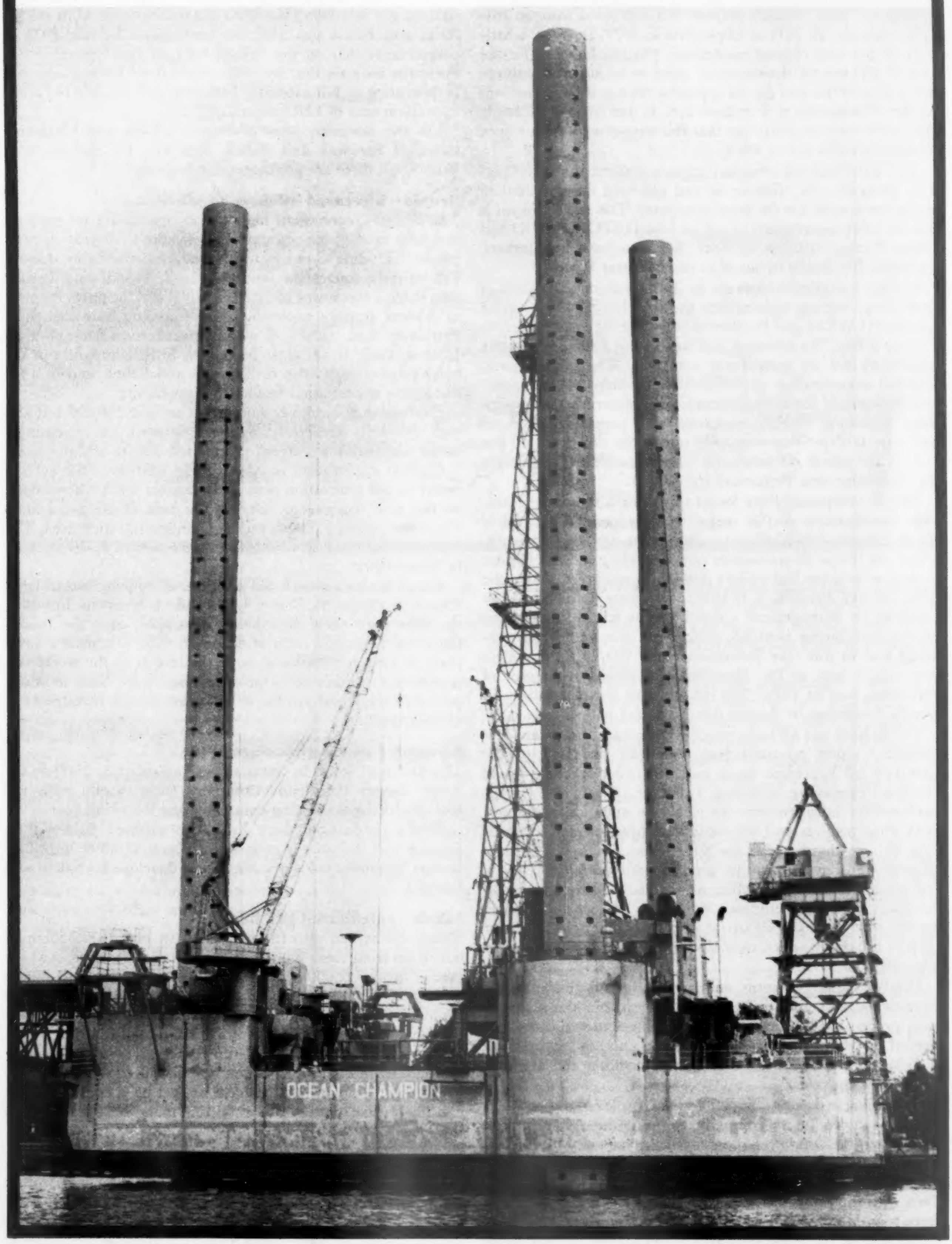
Although the interests of the companies and individuals involved spreads far wider, for the purpose of this study South-East Asia should be considered as the area covered by the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Whilst this might appear to be a significant contraction from the larger canvas of the Asia-Pacific Area, it is worth drawing the comparison that the UK-designated offshore area (which dominates in size and ultimate potential the north.west European continental shelf) is only approximately one-tenth of that of Indonesia alone. More than 20 of the 30 or so exploration rigs in the Asia-Pacific area are working in ASEAN waters today.

The Shell Group of companies were active on land in Indonesia and Borneo many years ago and it is only in relatively recent years that offshore development has taken place. Shell hold concessions in Sarawak, Sabah and Brunei. Other offshore concessions around Indonesia, off Peninsular Malaysia, in the Gulf of Thailand, and around the Philippine islands are held by well known companies such as Aquitaine, BP, Esso, Mobil, Weekes and many others. Even today, however, the largest part of production is from onshore fields – in Indonesia.

Indonesia – promising offshore prospects

The oil industry in Indonesia is by no means new, the forerunner of the Royal Dutch Shell Companies having had their origins in the East Indies around the beginning of the century. There was however a relatively slow build-up in production and at the beginning of the First National Development Plan in 1969 the crude petroleum output of all Indonesian fields amounted to .77 million barrels per day. This had virtually doubled by the end of the five-year plan period in 1974 when output was 1.5 million b/d. Output slumped to 1.2 million b/d in 1975, partly due to Pertamina's well publicised prob-

'Ocean Champion', a Bethlehem Steel standard 275ft bottom-to-bottom mobile offshore drilling rig built for ODECO, at the fitting-out stage during 1975. Jack-up exploration rigs of this kind are in use throughout the South East Asian region (photo courtesy Bethlehem Singapore Pte Ltd.)



lems and partly on account of the fact that in late 1974 China cut prices from US$12.80 to US$12.10 a barrel and the Japanese, who normally buy most of Indonesia's output, switched suppliers.

Current production is largely from onshore fields, but the percentage from offshore sources has increased from a little over 1 per cent in 1971 to 13 per cent in 1973. It is now a little over 10 per cent of total production. Output forecasts for the end of the second development plan were put at 3 million b/d but recently, and for no apparent reason, the forecast was revised downwards to 2 million b/d. It had been confidently predicted only two years ago that this output would have been obtained by the end of 1974.

Geologists and oil company experts believe that the long-term prospects for offshore oil and gas field development in Indonesian waters to be most promising. The search for oil is still the most vigorous in the region with IIAPCO, ARCO and Cities Service drilling offshore Sumatra/Java and others, including BP, busily involved in the Makasar Straits.

Foreign companies operate in Indonesia on the basis of production-sharing agreements, the first having been signed between IIAPCO and Pertamina (the state oil corporation) in August 1966. The terms of this agreement have formed the framework for all subsequent contracts. The oil company becomes a contractor to Pertamina (titularly the manager) and responsible for all operations, and materials and equipment including foreign exchange and personnel. The oil company is able to recover costs out of the take from 40 per cent of the crude oil produced: the remaining 60 per cent, the contractor and Pertamina split 35/65.

The oil companies have found this to be a relatively equitable arrangement and it seems to have produced a fairly stable climate in which these companies are able to work. There are about 40 companies now providing the risk capital needed to develop Indonesia's petroleum resources, whilst the state, through Pertamina, is able to influence development by retaining its management control. As its name implies, the production-sharing contract divides up the actual oil produced and in this way Pertamina is not simply a tax collection agency but, as Dr. Ibnu Sutowo, president-director of Pertamina said in 1974, 'We can develop our capabilities in foreign marketing by having direct contact with buyers.'

Things have not all been easy for Pertamina, however. This company which produces just under 10 per cent of the country's oil has built up a vast structure of related and unrelated operations including a fleet of aircraft and a communications infrastructure to rival the state organisations. With these projects and the costly development plan to transform Batam Island, across the Straits from Singapore, into an oriental Houston, Pertamina, producer of over 60 per cent of Indonesia's domestic revenue, so seriously overborrowed on the short term Euro-currency market to finance its growing empire that it had built up an external debt totalling over US$1.5 billion, of which over US$500 million became due for repayment in 1975.

The Indonesian Government agreed to stand guarantor for these debts, and now that restructuring within the management process has been completed, two international consortia, one led by Morgan Guaranty Trust and another by the Bank of Tokyo, have raised loans of US$425 million and US$150 million respectively.

Pertamina is directly involved as an exploration company and also as a production company operating the eight refineries which give the country a manufacturing capacity of 426,000 b/d. A further 100,000 b/d refinery is being built by Fluor at Cilicap, which it is planned should be on stream this year. Even with the projected 300,000 b/d refinery at Batam Island there is an inbalance in Indonesia's petroleum trading. About 70 per cent of the crude production is exported – almost all to Japan – and some is sent to Singapore for refining and return for the domestic market; but large quantities of kerosene still have to be imported to satisfy the needs of the largely rural population.

Indonesia embarked on the large scale exploitation of natural gas in 1969. Two LNG plants are to be built on the Arun and Badak gas fields for completion by mid-1977 to complement that on the Arjuna field on Java's north coast. Forecasts indicate that by 1980, when these three plants will be operating at full capacity, Indonesia will be able to export 12 million tons of LNG annually.

On the northern coast of Borneo are the east Malaysian states of Sarawak and Sabah, and also the Sultanate of Brunei. All three are producers of petroleum.

Brunei – increased offshore production

The Brunei Government have let concessions for oil exploration over most of the country, and offshore to several oil companies including Sunray, Clark and Superior who share a 735 sq mile concession; and Asheland, Woods and Pensoil who share a concession of 1,139 sq miles. But the only company at present actively exploring and producing is Brunei Shell Petroleum Ltd. (BSP), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Shell International. It has close links with Shell companies in the neighbouring territories of Sarawak and Sabah and in 1973 put a new sea terminal facility into operation.

Production is currently running at around 250,000 b/d and with the wells onshore becoming exhausted, an increasingly larger proportion of current production is from offshore wells.

Current exploration is taking place offshore. BSP surrendered its old concession area in December 1973 when taking on two new concessions. One in the area of the Seria field. The other covers 1,534 sq miles of continental shelf area. The company have a further offshore concession of 1,470 sq miles in 'deep water'.

Brunei is also a substantial producer of liquefied natural gas. This is produced by Brunei LNG Ltd., a company in which the shares are held by Shell, Mitsubishi, and the Brunei Government in the ratio of 45:45:10. The company's LNG plant at Lumut is believed to be the largest in the world and represents, together with the specialised ships built to transport it to the long-term buyer in Japan, a total investment of US$600 million.

Sarawak – production since 1910

The first concession in Sarawak was awarded in 1909 to the Anglo Saxon Petroleum Company (now Shell) with the first producing well being completed the following year.

Shell's production there from two offshore fields – West Lutong and Baram – is running at about 100,000 b/d. Two further (smaller) fields are also being developed – Bakau and Baronia.

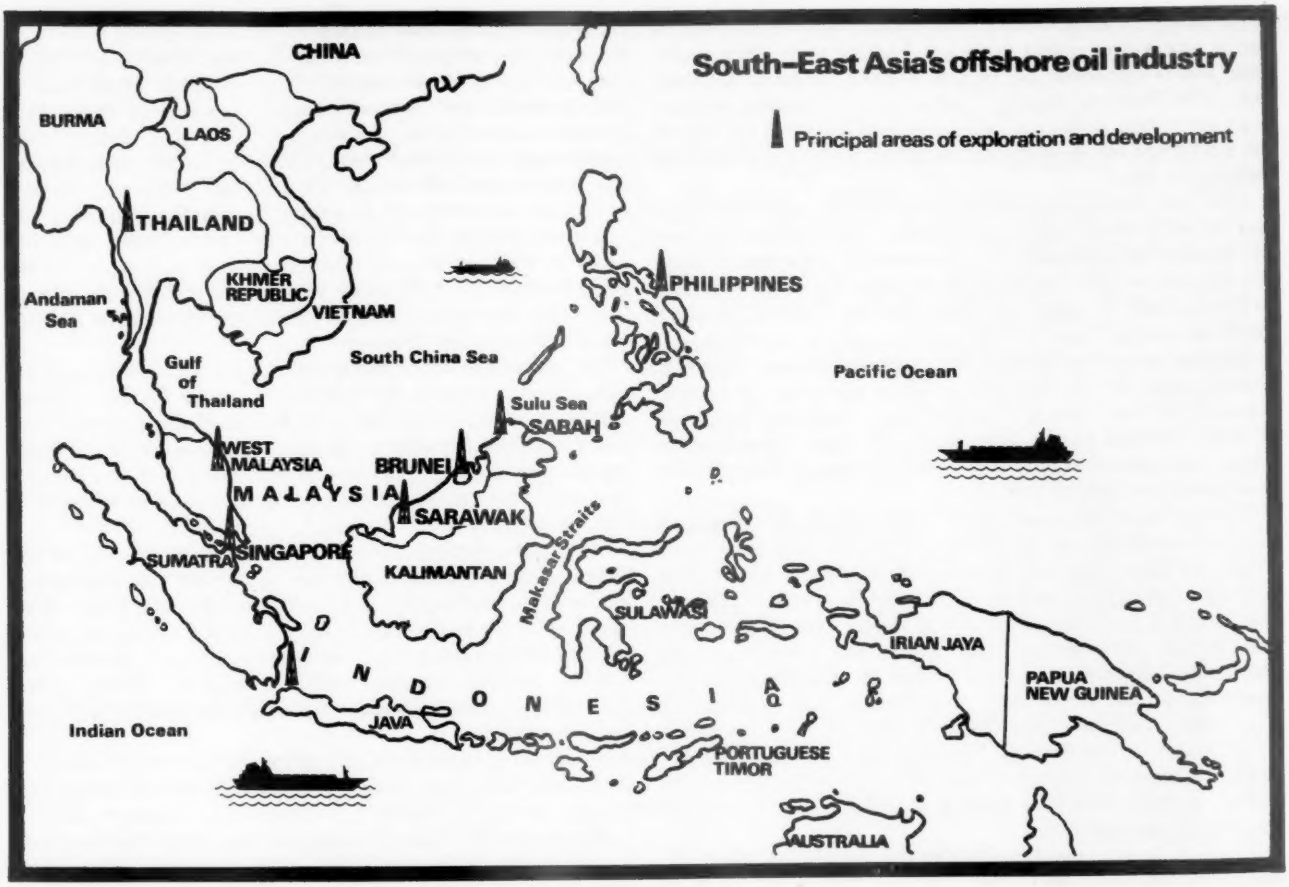
Sabah – substantial gas finds

Exxon discovered oil offshore Sabah in late 1971, 55 miles out to sea from Kota Kinabalu, and small wells flowing at the rate of around 2,000 b/d are now producing for both Exxon and Shell. There have been substantial finds of gas by the exploration companies in these areas and a large LNG plant is likely to be built some 10 miles north-east of Bintulu.

The Malaysian state petroleum corporation will be a major shareholder in the project which is to be shared with Shell and Mitsubishi. Viability studies have not yet been completed but it is likely that some decisions will be made by the middle of this year.

West Malaysia – focus on new exploration

The main focus in Malaysia has been on the 'new' exploration off the peninsula of Malaysia. The first strike locating a commercially exploitable field was by Conoco. Subsequently Esso Exploration have found other commercial fields which



South–East Asia's offshore oil industry

Principal areas of exploration and development

will flow at rates of up to 7,000 b/d. Exploration has ceased in the areas both east and west of the peninsula since the formation of the national oil agency (Petronas) to control the exploration for, and exploitation of, Malaysia's petroleum resources.

Esso finalised a production-sharing agreement for its existing wells by the end of 1975. This increased the likelihood that the company would resume exploration and production well drilling in view of the fact that agreement on the type and formula of a concession/production sharing contract was nearer. Conoco, who had also stopped drilling, are believed to be near finalising too.

Petronas (Petroleum Nasional Bhd) set up by the Malaysian government in late 1974 has the potential to become another Pertamina. The Petroleum Development Act gives to Petronas the ownership in, and exclusive rights, powers, liberties, and privileges of exploring, exploiting, winning and obtaining petroleum, whether onshore or offshore Malaysia.

After an interim period of six months expired on 1 April 1975, the previous concession agreements completely expired and reverted to Petronas. It had been understood in the industry that by then production sharing contracts would have been negotiated with Petronas and signed by the previous concession holders. It was also understood that when the production sharing contracts had been signed the government oil company would be responsible for the management of the petroleum operation and the foreign oil company for its execution as a contractor.

The nine companies previously holding exploration licences with the individual state governments of the Malaysian Federation had signed letters of intent to convert their agreements as long as two years ago. Little hard news comes out of Petromas headquarters, except that the Chairman (Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah) did announce the agreement with Shell and later Exxon Production to enter negotiations for production sharing agreements over their existing wells in November last year. The agreement to go ahead in principle with the Bintulu LNG venture was also brought into the open, largely it would appear, to dampen criticisms of inactivity levelled at the state company.

What is certain though is the government's wish to see local participation in every stage of the exploration and exploitation process. Once the initial problems have been cleared future prospects are encouraging. There are a number of foreign oil companies known to be eager to bid for the concessions, and by 1980 production from both west and east Malaysian offshore fields is expected to be in the order of 500,000 b/d.

Even with Shell's refinery at Port Dickson expanded to a 90,000 b/d capacity, Malaysia still has a shortfall in refining capacity and currently imports around 25 per cent of domestic requirements for refined petroleum products from Singapore. There is therefore a proposal by Caltex and Japanese Arabian Oil Co. to build a 100,000 b/d refinery at Telok Robiah as a joint venture and there are further plans for refinery development, near the offshore strikes recorded by Esso and Conoco in the South China Sea, at Pulau Tioman some 40 miles north-east of Mersing on the peninsula's eastern seaboard. Development of a petro chemical industry is likely to be much slower however.

Thailand – favourable preliminary indications

Further north, in the Gulf of Thailand, BP, Gulf, Tenneco, Amoco, Union and Triton all have concession areas on which they have been working. Evaluation of strikes to date and the work of the next few months will probably show whether Thailand has a future as either a petroleum or gas-producing state. Preliminary indications are favourable.

A small onshore field is already in production at Fang, and extensive (some reports say enormous) shale oil deposits in north-eastern Thailand have been discovered. The increase in posted prices over recent years has brought these fields to the point where extraction has become a distinctly viable proposition. The National Energy Authority is embarking upon a pilot extraction project at Mae Sod and Amphoe Lee where the 2.5 billion ton deposits are estimated to have a yield of 40 gallons per ton.

The best chances for finding commercially exploitable gas and oil fields are thought to lie offshore. The Gulf of Thailand has already been divided into 19 concession areas and drilling has been in progress for nearly four years. From the evidence so far available, it seems very likely that the Gulf may produce more natural gas than oil. Signs of oil and gas in commercial quantities have been found in the areas that Union, Tenneco, Conoco and BP are exploring. There are nine concession areas off the west coast of Thailand in the Andaman Sea, most of which extend to the 600ft-mark. BP have already gone ahead with seismic survey and intend to expand their drilling programme as soon as possible.

The terms of the agreements under which oil companies have been granted concessions vary from area to area. Broadly Thai petroleum law provides for an eight-year exploration period; a production period of at least 30 years; a 12.5 per cent royalty; and a tax on profits of 50 per cent-60 per cent.

Although the business and investment climate is undoubtedly affected by recent events in the neighbouring countries to the north and east, foreign and particularly American confidence remains at a high level. Exploration programmes in the Gulf of Thailand have suffered setbacks, mainly budgetary, in each of the last two years, but forecasts made for 1976 were that activity would increase both there and in the Andaman Sea.

Plans to supplement the 166,000 b/d capacity of the Summit, Esso Eastern, and Thai Oil (a Shell joint venture) refineries, by a further 100,000 b/d to combat the perennial shortfall in diesel production and an increasing demand for gas oil, were announced by Mobil in 1974. Shell plan a US$100 million joint venture project to build a 240,000 ton pa lube-oil plant in association with the Thai Oil Refinery at Si Racha which is scheduled for operation by 1978.

The Philippines – depending on petroleum products

The Philippines have an almost total dependence upon petroleum products for energy consumption and the volume of crude oil imports has increased enormously over the past 10 years. Although neither onshore nor offshore exploration has produced any signs of oil, the industry is one of the growing and thriving sectors of the country's economy.

Last year, like 1974, was depressingly fruitless and yet recent decisions to switch the involvement of oil companies from concession holding into a contractor relationship with PNOC (the Philippines National Oil Company – formed two years ago) has produced sufficient encouragement to have the majors deciding how, rather than where, to allocate their exploration budgets for 1976.

Exploration activity has so far concentrated in the Sulu Sea around Palawan, but PNOC's intimation that contracts on a more favourable basis would be awarded to oil companies willing to go further afield might well have provided the incentive to extend the region's search into previously unexplored waters in the coming three to four years. Gas in commercial quantities has already been found onshore, and this keeps high the hopes that oil too will be found there.

PNOC is the government vehicle for the development of the Philippines oil industry. Already the biggest industrial employer in the Philippines with wholly-owned and other subsidiaries in all branches of the oil industry, this large corporation is well placed to implement the aims of central planners in the search for offshore oil.

Singapore – regional centre

Because of its geographical situation Singapore has evolved as the regional centre for the petroleum industry. More than 30 oil companies and over 100 supply and service companies, including consultants, geophysical outfits and drilling contractors are established there. Offshore supply bases having full facilities for bulk storage of water, fuel, muds and cements as well as hardware such as casing, have been established too.

Loyang Marine Base houses about 40 companies including most of the well-known and established names in oilfield equipment such as Reading and Bates, Halliburton, Grant Oil Tool; and is managed as a joint venture between government and Santa Fe Pomeroy.

On the west coast of the island the Jurong Town Corporation has developed a Marine Base to cater for the offshore supply industry. In addition, the Port of Singapore Authority has a small facility where coastal traffic supporting the land-based operations in Sumatra call, and a number of acres at a new small port development on the west coast to utilise as a full scale supply base.

The traffic through the two bases has been affected by the slowdown in exploration activities, especially the cessation of exploration drilling by Esso offshore Malaysia. Also from catering for up to 200 supply boats a month calling to service the rigs Singapore's supply bases are now much more central storage, provisioning and workshop facilities backing up the increasing number of localised rig supply bases in the surrounding countries.

Singapore shipyards quickly adapted to the requirements of the market and can produce tug boats, anchor handling and supply vessels at competitive prices and early delivery dates.

However, it is in rig-building that Singapore has acquired a reputation. Of the 58 oil rigs delivered during 1975, Singapore yards produced 11 – almost 20 per cent of the world total. Marathon Le Tourneau and Bethlehem Steel have established subsidiaries to build exploration rigs and a third local yard, which had a management contract with the American Levingston shipbuilding organisation, has the skills to build a variety of rigs and is currently building an Aker H-3 semi-submersible. A fourth yard having ties with Hitachi is building jack-ups.

Although subject to the monsoon winds and electric storms prevalent in South-East Asian waters, production platforms, such as the one pictured below, operate in relatively shallow waters. (photo courtesy *Petroleum News SEA.*)

The industry has attracted buyers from the established offshore oil exploration world and the reputation gained by the yards in Singapore is such to have encouraged orders from mainland China and inquiries, even from the Soviet Union. At this time last year the industry was buoyant and confident having orders for more than 20 rigs at a value of over US$750 million for delivery before the end of 1977. New orders have not come in as had been hoped and the work schedule will be severely affected later this year unless new orders are placed soon.

Perhaps surprisingly, Singapore is the third largest refining centre in the world. Refinery developments completed in 1973 gave Singapore the capacity to process a little over one million barrels of crude oil a day. These plants in fact are links in the chain of supply and distribution for the major oil companies and were designed to process Middle East crude. Some, but only a small amount, of Indonesian crude is refined from time to time on a contract basis, most of Indonesia's production going to Japan.

Singapore consumes very little of the output of its own refineries and the industry contributes a substantial amount to the republic's income. By value, petroleum accounts for nearly a quarter of Singapore's import bill but, with less than 1 per cent of the labour force, the five refineries in the country contribute some 25 per cent of the value added output of all manufacturing industries.

With petro-chemical plant development plans in the region being subject to drastic pruning and even cancellation, Singapore is happy to have in train a joint venture between the government and the Japanese Sumitomo Corporation to construct a petro-chemical plant with an annual output of some 300,000 tons of ethylene: Singapore's own refineries are to produce the feedstocks. Initially it was planned to see the plant on stream by the end of 1978, but it is now thought unlikely to be completed before the early 1980's.

Many international and multi-national companies have formed their bases to service the region in Singapore because of its convenience. There are good communications, internationally and intra-regionally; first-class telex and telecommunications facilities; good, if expensive, residential facilities; and a hardworking, English-speaking labour force.

The industry estimates that at least US$10 billion will be spent on the offshore exploration effort in these waters in the next five years or so and most of this money will be channelled through Singapore, much being absorbed here in providing the wherewithal to keep the rigs operating.

There are undoubted opportunities existing for the supply of oilfield and gas equipment and services in the South-East Asian region. To get into this market, however, it is essential to establish a stock-holding, spares and service centre in the region. It is possible to make the right arrangements with a local company to act as an agent, and not absolutely essential to have one's own locally registered operating company to carry out the local stocking facility (although the majority of United States equipment companies are here on the ground). But it is considered essential to have company service engineers on the spot to follow up sales and service inquiries. The market is difficult to break into and thus results are a medium- rather than a short-term prospect.

The best opportunities in the exploration market are for equipment that does not have a sole application to the oil industry – equipment which is already of proven value, quality and efficiency including pumps, generators, communications equipment, turbines, etc. Other opportunities exist in casings (in general short supply) and the specialised down-hole products such as muds and cements; in supply operation such as boats and logistics; and specialised professional services such as diving.

The Indonesian Government encourages service, supply and operating companies to have a 'real' presence in Indonesia and it is essential to have a good indigenous agent, if not a locally-established operation there. Little business can be done with buyers in Indonesia without visiting the country and establishing contact with Pertamina and the foreign companies operating there. Much the same could be said for Malaysia where contact with Petronas will be essential.

This question of making contacts in the countries of the region cannot be emphasised enough. Although most of the oil companies maintain regional offices in Singapore and in fact many sales negotiations may be concluded there, local ventures are, and will become, more and more important. However Singapore is, and will remain, an important market place and first port of call in this growing oil producing region.

The 362ft drillship 'Fredericksburg' built for Atwood Oceanics of Houston, Texas, has the capacity to drill to a depth of 25,000ft. A similar self-propelled exploration vessel is currently in production at the same Singapore yard for the Jardine Offshore Petroleum Group. (photo courtesy of the builder; Far East-Levingston Shipbuilding Ltd.)

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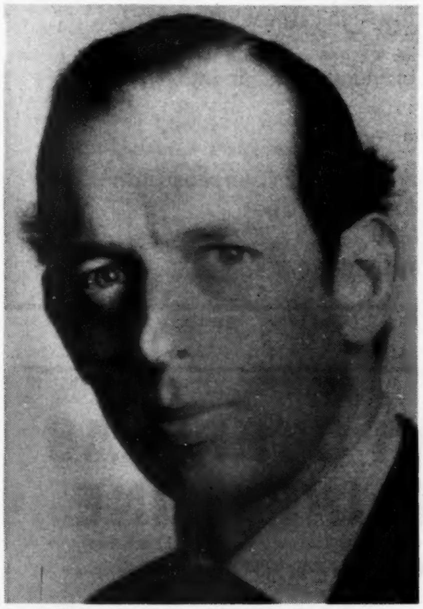
BOTB News

How to succeed in Japan by really trying

In Japan's deepest recession for many years many British exporters have been doing better than their major European competitors in important sectors of the Japanese market for manufactured goods, said Hamish McGhie, special adviser on Japan (BOTB) in London on 27 January. Mr. McGhie was launching a new BOTB publication *British Successes in Japan* which, it is hoped, will encourage more companies to consider the potential of the Japanese market. He said that the publication demonstrated how the efforts of a large group of British exporters to Japan, aided and abetted by the official export services, are beginning to show results.



Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, in announcing that the Duke of Kent was to be appointed Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, said in the House of Commons that he was making this appointment to draw on the Duke of Kent's experience of supporting British exporters, and on his knowledge in the field of electronics (he is deputy chairman of the National Electronics Council).

In the period January-November 1975, in SITC Sectors 7, 8, and 9 (transport equipment, non-electrical and agricultural machinery, scientific instruments, toys, etc.) UK exports rose by 13.8 per cent; West Germany's fell by 14.4 per cent and France's by 19.2 per cent. (See figures below.)

He went on: 'This fact, and the successes reported in the publication by a cross-section of 28 British firms, serve as an answer to those who say that our exporters have not been trying hard enough. The case studies give a lead to others by telling an encouraging story of initiative, enterprise and perseverance. A clear consensus emerges: it is that even larger opportunities are opening up, that Japan will resume a strong growth pattern in 1976 and that the time is ripe for effort in the market.'

The publication, the first of its kind, includes product studies as diverse as jet engines and gramophone records, flight simulators and industrial diamonds. Certain conclusions can be drawn:

1. Small firms with adequate marketing resources stand as good a chance of success as large ones;
2. Despite the very important contribution of consumer goods exports, great strides are now being made in sales of high technology products – and the British image is changing;
3. Besides direct exports, joint-venture manufacturing and marketing, licensing agreements and collaboration with the Japanese in third markets all have a role to play. The fruits of some of these efforts do not emerge in the bilateral trade figures;
4. The supply of British components and equipment for inclusion in Japanese exports can often be very profitable;
5. The contribution of Britain's 'invisible' exports is invaluable;
6. BOTB services to exporters, including the Marketing Centre in Tokyo, are proving useful and in some cases indispensable aids to exporters.

Copies of the booklet are available from: Exports to Japan Unit, BOTB, Hillgate House, 26 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7HU.

Japan's imports of manufactured goods (SITC 7, 8, and 9)* (Unit: Yen million)

	Jan.-Nov. 1975	Percentage change against the same period of preceding year	Share of total imports (ie all categories)	Share of imports in categories SITC 7, 8, and 9
Global	1,643,514	−9.9	100.0	100.0
UK	106,125	+13.8	1.4	6.5
Federal Republic of Germany	175,067	−14.4	2.0	10.7
France	56,819	−19.2	0.9	3.5
Sweden	28,642	−16.2	0.3	1.7
Italy	57,449	−11.2	0.6	3.5

Note: Figures are on a customs clearance basis.
Source: Japanese customs.
* SITC 7, 8, and 9: Machinery and transport; Manufactured articles; Miscellaneous.

Hints to businessmen

Department of Trade's *Hints to Businessmen* booklets cover over 100 countries individually, and provide invaluable information on such subjects as industries, economic factors, the nature and extent of imports and exports, population, travel, hotels, climate, currency and public holidays. Copies are available free to British businessmen visiting any country on export business. Apply to: Export Services Division, Department of Trade, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7146).

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Easier going with a liner waybill

The use of a negotiable bill of lading which has to be surrendered to the carrier at destination in order to obtain delivery of the goods is traditional – but not without disadvantages. The document has to follow the goods, and often for commercial or financial reasons passes through a variety of hands, resulting in the goods being held up at destination pending arrival of the document. With this system expenses and additional risks are incurred and customer goodwill is possibly lost.

The Simplification of International Trade Procedures Board (SITPRO) has therefore always advocated the use, where commercially and financially acceptable, of a non-negotiable type of transport document, a waybill, in place of the negotiable one, the traditional bill of lading, since the waybill provides for delivery to the consignee named in it without surrender of the document of transport.

The General Council of British Shipping, with the co-operation of SITPRO, has further developed this concept and has proposed that shippers should have the option of using a common short form liner waybill for exports from the UK.

Liner Waybill: As a non-negotiable document, with the goods consigned to a named consignee, it does not require production to obtain possession of the goods at destination.

Short Form: As it uses a standard clause to incorporate the conditions of carriage by the actual carrier involved, it removes the mass of small print from the back of the document.

Common Form: As it is not pre-printed with the name of a specific carrier, the same form can be used for any carrier accepting the system merely by the shipper or agent entering the appropriate carrier's name.

It is also a 'received for shipment' document and should therefore be available to the shipper earlier than a 'shipped' bill of lading.

The common short form liner waybill, however, is a wide concept and is still to be accepted in the UK, although it is already used in Scandinavia.

In any new venture of this kind, several traditional and quite serious difficulties have to be overcome before such a document can be introduced. It would, therefore, be very useful to assess what demand may exist on the part of shippers for its introduction. For this reason, SITPRO would like to hear from exporters and freight forwarders who would consider using a common short form liner waybill where appropriate as an optional alternative to a bill of lading. Letters should be addressed as soon as possible to SITPRO at 11-12 Waterloo Place, London SW1Y 4AU.

Hospital equipment exports to Spain seminar

The British Overseas Trade Board, together with the British Hospitals Export Council, is staging a one-day seminar in London on the organisation of health care services in Spain and the market for medical and hospital equipment, supplies and services in Spain.

It will be held on Thursday, 4 March at the King's Fund Centre, Nutford Place, London W1, from 10.30. The seminar will consist of two main sessions of two hours' duration and will include a short informal panel discussion. Speakers at the seminar will include five senior Spanish Government officials from the Spanish Institute of National Social Security and the Directorate General of Health, and the commercial manager of a leading Spanish importer of British medical and hospital equipment.

The charge per person attending the event, including a buffet lunch and documentation, will be £15 for BHEC members and £20 for non-members. Further information is available from Mr. J. Hole, assistant director, British Hospitals Export Council, 24 Nutford Place, London W1H 6AN, tel. 01-262 2641.

British gas turbines and components at ASME

British design and 'know-how' in gas-turbine technology will highlight the UK participation at this year's ASME International Gas Turbine Conference and Products Show in New Orleans, 21-25 March.

The group organised by the BEAMA (British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association Ltd.) on behalf of the Power Generation Association is a joint venture with the BOTB.

The display by 10 British manufacturers namely A. E. Turbine Components Ltd., Brush Electrical Machines Ltd., Daniel Doncaster and Sons Ltd., Deritend Precision Castings Ltd., Doulton Industrial Products Ltd., Johnson and Firth Brown Group, High Duty Alloys Ltd., Lucas Aerospace Ltd., Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd., and SSS Gears Ltd. will demonstrate the world-wide uses of British gas turbine technology, including component parts, turbine blades, forgings and gears.

British pavilion planned for Tehran

Given sufficient response from industry the British Overseas Trade Board will organise a British Pavilion at the Tehran International Trade Fair from 18-31 October this year.

Iran is Britain's largest and most rapidly developing market in the Middle East. and this country is the fourth largest supplier following West Germany, Japan and the USA.

Although the Fair is a general trade event and, as such, is open to manufacturers of both capital and consumer goods it has been decided to focus attention in the British Pavilion on educational equipment, agricultural equipment and machinery, equipment for the petroleum and gas industries and domestic furniture. Preference will be given to companies in these fields when allocating space.

Other areas of opportunity for UK exports to Iran include building materials; construction equipment; energy and power generation plant; heating, ventilating and refrigeration equipment; materials handling equipment/port and harbour equipment; packaging machinery; pumps, valves and hydraulic equipment; textile machinery.

Companies in the medical equipment and hospital field and manufacturers of machine and other tools should note that we are supporting joint ventures at Iran-Med and Iran-Tool running concurrently in Tehran from 24-30 November 1976. Further details of these two fairs may be obtained from the British Hospitals Export Group and the Machine Tool Trades Association/Federation of British Handtool Manufacturers respectively.

For further information and details of the support offered by BOTB at the International Trade Fair, plus space application forms, contact G. A. Casburn, Department of Trade, Fairs and Promotions Branch, Room 115, Hillgate House, 26 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 602.

Domestic appliances on show at Cologne

The Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances (AMDEA) are organising a joint venture in co-operation with the BOTB at this year's Domotechnica, Cologne, from 12-15 February.

The group of 17 British domestic appliance equipment manufacturers will be located in Hall 14 with a full range of appliances for the home on view including washing machines, cookers, heating appliances and beauty aids.

AMDEA represents more than 100 UK electrical appliance manufacturers with an annual production valued at over £437 million, of which some £73 million is exported to world markets.

Exhibitions and Fairs

Optimism at home textiles fair

A satisfied and optimistic British contingent reported back to the UK after participating at the International Trade Fair for Home Furnishing Textiles (Heimtex) in Frankfurt, from 14-18 January. The fair attracted almost 60,000 (54,500 in 1975) trade visitors from 64 countries. One third of the visitors were from outside West Germany. The largest number of trade buyers came from France, followed by Italy, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Switzerland, Japan, Belgium, Austria and Spain. Besides the traditional groups of American and Japanese buyers there was, on this occasion, a noticeable increase in the number of buyers from Eastern Europe, mainly Poland and Yugoslavia.

As at previous events in this series of fairs, British participation was dominated by some 108 firms using an area of 3,420m^2, and grouped in three joint ventures sponsored by the BOTB in collaboration with the relevant trade associations. The largest of these was the group staged under the auspices of the British Carpet Export Association comprising 63 firms. Their stands, divided between two halls of the fair, were devoted entirely to floor coverings. The range of British carpets on show was very wide and several firms introduced new colours, designs, qualities and widths. Firms were pleased with the results achieved and customers from the Middle East were in attendance.

A further 39 firms from the UK made up the joint venture under the auspices of the National Wool Textile Export Corporation. The ever-increasing range of colourful household textiles displayed by this group was second to none and exhibitors in this joint venture were very satisfied with results. The majority described the fair as a great improvement on last year's event.

The third of the joint-venture groups was that of the Irish Linen Guild, in which six firms took part. The Guild manned an information stand and the exhibitors stands attracted a constant flow of visitors. Participants had been doubtful about 1976, but are extremely pleased with the results achieved and look forward to exhibiting again at the 1977 Heimtex. A point worthy of note was that most exhibitors reported seeing nearly all their main British customers at the fair.

According to a survey of non-German exhibitors (foreign companies comprise 47 per cent of the total exhibitors), 78 per cent were satisfied with business and business prospects with German firms and 94 per cent expressed satisfaction with orders taken and inquiries received from other markets.

German newspapers are commenting on the increase in confidence shown by buyers and reporting the fair as a very encouraging start to the New Year.

Successful Cologne furniture fair

From Hilde Mock, Commercial Department, British Embassy, Bonn: The 15th International Furniture Fair in Cologne was not only the biggest ever and attracted more visitors from all over the world, but also attracted an increased number of British exhibitors.

With 83 exhibitors the British participation in this fair – held from 20-25 January – was the largest ever in any furniture fair in the world. Of the 83 British exhibitors, 77 showed their products on a joint venture stand under the auspices of the British Overseas Trade Board in conjunction with the British Furniture Manufacturers' Federated Association. In total, 1,423 firms from 34 countries covered a net space area of 99,769m^2 which literally included the last centimetre of available net space in the huge Cologne Fairground. 97,000 buyers (+4 per cent) from 66 countries visited the fair, 22,500 of whom were foreign buyers (+7 per cent). The interest of press, radio and TV in this important event was demonstrated by the presence of 1,700 journalists, of whom 300 were from countries other than the Federal Republic.

The British, who were the third largest contingent after Italy and Denmark, were split into two areas with eight firms selling good design and the majority showing reproduction furniture. After a slow start – due to some practical difficulties – the group of the design furniture manufacturers were very pleased with the interest shown in modern British design by buyers from a number of European and overseas countries. Some of these exhibitors were able to take good orders on the spot and business expected during the next six months as result of their participation is quite substantial.

British reproduction furniture was also very much a highlight of the exhibition. Against the background of worldwide economic recession a certain degree of optimism was voiced at the close of the fair by German and foreign exhibitors alike. British manufacturers of reproduction and of design furniture were able to book firm orders during the time of their stay in Cologne well in excess of £2½ million. Their expectations for the next six months from inquiries received are estimated to be in the region of a further £6 million. An average of 80 per cent of this is attributed to business done or expected with buyers from the Federal Republic.

It was very encouraging to hear that newcomers to the British group reported an equally good result of the fair as the companies which had shown for a number of years. One of the newcomers, Pavilion Reproduction, concluded a contract worth approximately £250,000.

The range of furniture on display at the fair was of a remarkable high standard. Craftsmanship and good design were very much in the foreground and made the choice of buyers who very carefully compared products on offer before placing orders that much more difficult.

Consolidating progress with Paris carpets

From Robert Hyde, Second Secretary (Commercial), British Embassy, Paris: The 10th Paris Salon International du Tapis et des Revêtements de Sols (carpets and floor coverings) was held this year from 8 to 12 January at the Porte de Versailles exhibition park. Altogether 20 British firms (including four in the Templeton-Gray Group) participated in a joint venture sponsored by the British Carpets Export Association which occupied total stand space of nearly 800m^2.

Visitors numbered 15,292, of whom 1,505 were from 45 overseas countries. Attendance at the salon suffered from the fact that because dates were changed so that the salon could precede the Frankfurt show, it no longer coincided with the furniture exhibition with which it has previously been associated.

The show was officially opened by M. Vincent Ansquer, Ministre du Commerce et de l'Artisanat, who paid some attention to the excellently-presented British participation. It was encouraging to note that the majority of British exhibitors in the joint venture were returning to consolidate progress achieved at previous salons; notable among these were Riding Hall Carpets (Homfray Carpets) and Templeton-Gray's Carpets.

Among the newcomers, Georgian Carpets and William Goodacre of the Bowater Group were encouraged by their first experience of a salon which on this occasion can be said to have enjoyed a considerable success. British carpet manufacturers see both France and the Federal Republic of Germany as markets offering great growth potential. It is confidently expected that carpet exports to France will show a significant rise in 1976.

British participation at Plovdiv?

Providing there is sufficient support from UK industry, the BOTB is prepared to arrange an official British participation at the Bulgaria International Trade Fair, Plovidiv, 3-10 September 1976, under 'British Pavilion Scheme' terms.

Past experience has shown that equipment in the following fields usually arouses interest: agricultural machinery; chemical industry; construction industry; electronics and electronic components; engineering industry; food processing and packaging; light industry, including office machinery; machine tools; mechanical handling and containerisation; metallurgical industries.

Companies seeking further information should contact Arthur Reid, Fairs and Promotions Branch, BOTB, 26 Old Bailey, London EC4 (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 604). The cut-off date for space applications is 5 March.

Gastech '76 joint venture in New York

An export drive to the USA by British companies into the technology-intensive LNG/LPG market, is being sponsored by the CBMPE at this year's Gastech international exhibition which will take place in the New York Hilton, 5-8 October.

Some leading companies have already confirmed their participation in the British pavilion, including Shell International Marine, Tilcon, Pegler Hattersley, Glacier Metal, Marston Excelsior and Analytical Instruments. CBMPE members, who include both manufacturers and contractors to the petrochemical and natural gas industries, are major UK exporters, and the sponsorship of a group venture at Gastech is seen as a spearhead into America which is currently constructing the lion's share of the world LNG carrier fleet.

US gas companies have also arranged long-term importation projects for liquefied natural gas, and new receiving terminals are scheduled for both East and West Coasts. The ships, terminals and processing plants, for these new projects and others presently under US Federal Power Commission consideration, all require special cryogenic, insulation and metallurgical expertise and equipment.

Assisted by the British Overseas Trade Board the British joint venture enables UK companies to approach this market through a low-budget package which includes assisted travel for personnel. The USA is, of course, only part of the international market for LNG/LPG equipment, materials and services and the audience which will gather in New York this October will be drawn from all the major gas producing and importing nations. Some 1,000 delegates are expected to attend the Gastech LNG/PLG Conference, repeating the success of previous events in Paris, Amsterdam and London. UK companies wishing to participate should contact either the CBMPE or the Gastech Organisation, 2 Station Road, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire. Tel. Rickmansworth 76363.

UK contingent at Leipzig

A strong contingent of British firms, totalling more than 140, will be represented at this year's Leipzig Spring Fair (14-21 March). They will be backed by the Department of Trade's Information Stand, covering an area of 230m^2. The Commercial Department of the British Embassy in Berlin will have offices at the information stand and will be present there for the duration of the fair.

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Parliament

Monday, 26 January

Business confidence

Mr. David Lane (Cambridge) asked the Secretary of State for Industry for a current assessment of business confidence in the private sector.

'There are several indications that confidence is strengthening in the private sector of industry,' said Mr. Varley.

Investment by manufacturing industry

Mr. David Crouch (Canterbury) asked how the Secretary of State for Industry proposes to encourage greater investment this year by manufacturing industry.

Mr. MacKenzie replied: 'The Government have taken various steps over the past year to encourage investment, and just over a week ago we provided a further £30 million to encourage investment during 1976. We shall not hestiate to take any further appropriate steps.'

Steel industry

Questions were asked by Mr. Douglas Henderson (East Aberdeenshire), Mr. Teddy Taylor (Glasgow, Cathcart), Mr. John Stonehouse (Walsall North) and Mr. Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley): on the current state of the steel industry.

Mr. Varley made the following statement: 'As the House will know, the British Steel Corporation and the TUC Steel Committee signed on Friday a joint statement on reductions in employment costs and improvements in labour productivity. The unions recognised the need for reductions in manning levels, increased mobility of labour and other increases in labour productivity. The Corporation agreed to restore the "status quo" on premium shift working at those plants where a reduction in premium shifts has taken place since 4 January and an unresolved dispute exists. The unions undertook to ensure an immediate return to normal working at those plants.

'The agreement represents a very encouraging move towards the target of an efficiently manned and competitive nationalised steel industry. I should like to congratulate both management and union representatives on their achievement and to pay tribute to them for the hard work they put into it.'

Small businesses

Mr. Richard Luce (Shoreham) asked if the position of small businesses in the UK would be reviewed with a view to removing obstacles to expansion.

Mr. MacKenzie replied: 'Business expansion is dependent chiefly on a general expansion of trade which would benefit firms of every size and which the Government can best promote by its efforts to restore the health of the economy and to counter inflation. The particular needs of small firms are kept under review and taken into account in all our policies.'

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Gregor MacKenzie
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Lord Melchett
Neil Carmichael

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Peter Shore
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Eric Deakins
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection:
Shirley Williams
Minister of State: Alan Williams
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

Concorde landing rights in USA

Mr. Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked for a statement on the recent hearing in Washington concerning landing rights of Concorde in the US; and for an assurance that the activities of HM Government would be co-ordinated with the Government of France.

Mr. Kaufman replied: 'The United States Secretary of Transportation, Mr. William Coleman, chaired a public hearing in Washington on 5 January to consider Concorde's proposed access to the international airports of New York and Washington. The hearing was conducted in a fair and full way and our case is a strong one. Evidence presented to the hearing included a joint submission of oral and written evidence from the British and French Governments, and from the airlines and manufacturers in the two countries. We intend that this close co-operation will continue in the future.'

Concorde production

Mr. Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury) asked for a statement about production of the Concorde.

Mr. Kaufman said: 'The production programme is well advanced and the first deliveries to airlines have now been made. Aircraft 206 was handed over to British Airways on 14 January and undertook the inaugural flight to Bahrain on 21 January. Aircraft 204 is due to be handed over by mid-February. Two further Concordes will be make available later in the year and the remaining aircraft of the five ordered by British Airways is expected to be delivered to them early in 1977. Air France have likewise taken delivery of their first aircraft from the French production line, and expect to take delivery later this year of the remaining three Concordes they have on order.'

Teaching companies

Mr. Ivan Gow (Eastbourne) asked: 'What discussions have taken place with manufacturing companies regarding the formation of teaching companies?'

'Discussions have taken place with several manufacturing companies, seven of which have taken part in detailed feasibility studies,' said Mr. Carmichael, 'Pilot schemes have started in three prospective teaching companies.'

Ferrous Foundry Scheme

Mr. John Moore (Croydon Central) asked for a breakdown of the £25 million allocated to the Ferrous Foundry Scheme under Section 8 of the Industry Act 1972.

'No advance breakdown has been made,' said Mr. MacKenzie. 'Assistance is being and will be offered to individual projects that meet the criteria established for the Scheme. I have set up an external Advisory Committee to advise my Department on individual applications for assistance.'

Shipyards

Mr. Neville Trotter (Tynemouth) asked what was the future workload on 1 January 1976 at the Govan and Scotstoun shipyards; and how it compared with the workload on 1 January in 1973, 1974 and 1975.

Mr. Kaufman quoted the following table supplied by Govan Shipbuilders Ltd.:

	Position at 1 January			
	1973	1974	1975	1976
Govan Yard:				
No. of vessels	11	13	15	10
Tonnes	262.0	303.7	362.1	249.4
Scotstoun Yard:				
No. of vessels	3	6	7	6
Tonnes	77.1	108.7	123.6	112.6

Mr. Trotter also asked how many are employed on shiprepairing activities at each of the former Court Line yards in the North East; whether the Secretary of State for Industry has been consulted by the management as to the possibility of closing some of the repair facilities concerned; and to what extent he expects the present level of employment to be continued at each repair yard during 1976.

Mr. Kaufman replied: 'The numbers employed, including staff, on 23 January 1976 at the shiprepair yards of North East Coast Shiprepairers Ltd. which were formerly owned by Court Line, and are now in public ownership are as follows:

Mercantile Dry Dock Co. Ltd.	532
The Middle Docks and Engineering Co. Ltd.	971
Brigham and Cowan Ltd.	625
Greenwell Dry Docks Ltd.	394
Brigham and Cowan (Hull) Ltd.	205

'The Department has been kept closely informed of the management's discussions with the unions about the future of the yards. The most serious problem facing the group, and indeed the UK shiprepair industry as a whole, is a severe shortage of orders brought about by the generally depressed state of world trade, and the resultant decline in the numbers of ships trading. Employment prospects depend to a considerable extent on the state of trade. The management of the group will remain in close touch with the trade union representatives, and my Department will continue to watch the situation closely.'

National Enterprise Board

Questions about guidelines for the National Enterprise Board were asked by Mr. John Stanley (Tonbridge and Malling) and Mr. Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley).

'We have had most helpful comments from both sides of industry,' said Mr. Kaufman. He added that the draft guidelines should be published shortly.

Mr. Dafydd Wigley (Caernarvon) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry had consulted the National Enterprise Board concerning the relations between that body and the Welsh Development Agency.

Mr. Kaufman replied: 'Officials of the Department, and of other Departments concerned, have had extensive consultations with officials of the NEB and of the Welsh and Scottish Development Agencies in order to establish satisfactory working relations. Proposals have been put to the Boards concerned and I hope that the Welsh Development Agency will endorse them very shortly, as the NEB has done.'

Proposed Merseyside Development Agency

Mr. Kilroy-Silk asked if a Merseyside Development Agency would be set up analogous to those set up for Scotland and Wales.

Mr. MacKenzie replied: 'In England the National Enterprise Board has responsibilities for industrial development corresponding to those of the Scottish and Welsh Development Agencies. The Board is establishing a regional office in Merseyside to help fulfil its responsibilities there and elsewhere in the North West.'

Stockbuilding in the textile industry

Mr. Michael McGuire (Ince) asked for an estimate for the number of jobs saved as a result of stocking by textile manufacturers; and for a statement about the Government's intentions to assist with this stocking.

Mr. Carmichael replied: 'It is not possible to estimate the number of jobs saved by stockbuilding, which is only one of many factors affecting employment in the textile industry. As my Hon. Friend, the Under-Secretary of State for Trade said in the House on 6 August 1975, the Government decided, after extensive consultation with the industry, that a stockbuilding scheme would not be desirable.'

Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd.

Mr. Peter Rost (South East Derbyshire) asked if Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd. has adequate working and development capital.

'The scale of future funding of the company is currently under consideration,' said Mr. Kaufman. 'In the meantime, I am satisfied that the company has sufficient working capital.'

Leyland

Mr. Douglas Hurd (Mid-Oxon) asked what directions have been given to the chairman of the NEB about the release of further public funds to the Leyland company.

Mr. Kaufman answered: 'As the Ryder Team recommended, the release of further funds will be conditional upon the Government and the NEB being satisfied that there has been real progress in productivity and industrial relations.'

Chrysler

Mr. Jonathan Aitken (Thanet East) asked for a statement from the Secretary of State for Industry on his most recent negotiations with the Chrysler Corporation.

Mr. Varley said: 'A copy of the agreement signed on 5 January and certain supporting documents were placed in the library on 19 January. We are now pursuing a number of issues with the company, including arrangements for monitoring, a planning agreement and the appointment of Government-nominated directors.'

Mr. Les Huckfield (Nuneaton) asked for a further statement about monitoring the progress of the agreement with the Chrysler Corporation.

Mr. Varley said: 'Arrangements have been made for Coopers and Lybrand to act as advisers to my Department in connection with the monitoring to be carried out in accordance with the agreement reached with Chrysler Corporation and Chrysler United Kingdom.'

Mr. Richard Wainwright asked whether the £162.5 million designated as potential maximum financial assistance to Chrysler (UK) Ltd. is a cash limit at present prices or a commitment which will be adjusted by projected inflation rates, and for information about the cost escalation clauses included in the agreement.

Mr. Kaufman replied: 'The full text of the agreement was placed in the Library on 19 January. The sum of £162.5 million includes provision for increased costs up to 1979 and there is no commitment for upward revision.'

Brown Boveri Kent

Mr. John Stanley (Tonbridge and Malling) and Mr. T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked if the Government propose to take up its entitlement in the pending rights issue of the Brown Boverie Kent Group; and whether it contemplates increasing its stake of 12.27 per cent in the company.

'The Department of Industry's shareholding is being transferred to the National Enterprise Board and its entitlement under the rights issue will be renounced to the Board,' said Mr. MacKenzie.

Thorn Consumer Electronics Ltd.

Mr. Edward Lyons (Bradford West) asked if steps would be taken to reduce the dangers of redundancies at Thorn Consumer Electronics Ltd., Bradford.

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'The recent relaxation in hire purchase and rental controls has, I understand, enabled Thorn Consumer Electronics Ltd. to avoid short-time working at its Bradford factory which previously it had intended to introduce. However, some reduction in the work-force remains necessary.

'As my Rt. Hon. Friend, the Paymaster General, said in reply to the Question by my Hon. Friend, the Member for Ince, on 21 January (column 493-94), when the scope for any further changes in these controls and 25 per cent VAT is reviewed before the Spring Budget, all relevant factors including the employment situation will be taken into account.'

Mr. Morris (Northampton South) asked if the Government would consider giving financial assistance to any company moving into Thorn's Skelmersdale works.

'Skelmersdale is in a special development area and any company moving into the factory would receive financial assistance if its project qualifies under the rules governing aid to development in such an area,' said Mr. MacKenzie.

Government grants to Scottish companies

Mr. W. W. Hamilton (Central Fife) inquired about steps being taken to reduce delay in the payment of Government grants to companies qualified to receive them; and about the total amount currently outstanding and owing to companies in Scotland.

Mr. MacKenzie answered; 'On 15 January 1976, 3807 applications for regional development grants were outstanding in the Glasgow grants office, involving grants of approximately £33 million. Extra staff have been allocated to that office and are now being recruited. Interim measures taken to reduce the arrears include the temporary loan of experienced staff from other grants offices, the temporary suspension of activities other than claims clearance, and overtime working'.

Sir Paul Bryan (Howden) asked what sums in regional development grants have been received by Scotland and by the Yorkshire and Humberside Region, respectively.

Mr. MacKenzie told him: 'The amount of regional development grant paid to firms in Scotland and the Yorkshire and Humberside

Region up to 30 September 1975, the latest date for which this detailed information is available, is £134.2 million and £23.9 million respectively.'

Regional policy

Mr. Giles Radice (Chester-le-Street) asked for a statement on the effectiveness of regional policy in the Northern Region.

Mr. MacKenzie said: 'Without our regional policies the position of the Northern Region would be much worse. Every manufacturing company there which invests in buildings, plant or machinery can get a regional development grant. Many get selective financial assistance as well. Every manufacturer gets REP. Unemployment in the region is far too high, but it has been rising more slowly in the Northern Region than in the country as a whole.'

Mr. Michael McGuire (Ince) referred to 'the need to give special help to towns, areas, or regions which most need it' and asked if the Secretary of State for Industry would consider changing the present regional grant aid policy to enable him to do this.

'Regional incentives are designed to help areas with severe long term unemployment and related problems,' said Mr. MacKenzie. 'They are not instruments to deal with recessions. The Government has recently introduced a number of measures to create and preserve jobs and to bring forward new investment in order to alleviate the effects of the recession. These are being applied both within and without the Assisted Areas.'

Paper and printing industries

Mr. John Ovenden (Gravesend) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry had received a copy of the SOGAT publication 'Save Our Industry'; and what reply he had sent.

Mr. Carmichael answered: 'The union has not asked for my views on its publication 'Save Our Industry', but has had discussions previously with my Department on some of the issues considered in it. Further opportunities for discussion of the problems of the paper and board industry will arise in the work of the Paper Industry Study Group, on which SOGAT and my Department, among others, are both represented.'

Post Office reports

Mr. Trotter asked the Secretary of State for Industry: 'Whether in calculating the figures of the annual loss of the Giro for 1971-72, 1972-73 and 1973-74 in the recent White Paper, account was taken of the losses of £6.4 million, £5.1 million and £4.1 million shown for those years in the Post Office Annual Reports and in the case of 1973-74 also of the figures of £6.5 million shown as a comparative in the Report for 1974-75.'?

'Yes,' said Mr. MacKenzie. 'The losses shown in the Post Office Annual Reports up to and including 1973-74 are before (i) charging interest payable on loans to finance past losses and (ii) crediting compensation for price restraint. The loss for 1973-74 shown in the White Paper corresponds to the comparative figure in the 1974-75 Accounts, after crediting compensation.

'The apportionment of interest payable on loans to finance losses and loans to finance net assets, as shown in the White Paper, is on a slightly different basis from that adopted for each year in the Post Office Annual Reports. I am writing to the Hon. Member to explain this more fully.'

Commercial development of Post Office property

Mr. J. W. Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr) asked how many approvals were given by the Secretary of State for Industry under Section 13 of the Post Office Act 1969, in each year since that date; and how many of these approvals involved commercial property development.

Mr. MacKenzie gave the information as follows:

1969	Nil
1970	Nil
1971	1
1972	4
1973	2
1974	1
1975	1

None of these involved commercial property development.

Company law

Mr. R. B. Cant (Stoke on Trent Central) asked if the Companies Acts would be amended to forbid the issue of non voting and restricted voting shares.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied that this subject was being considered as part of the Department of Trade's general review of company law.

Returns on capital

Mr. Esmond Bulmer (Kidderminster) asked about the average return on capital net of stock appreciation in British industry for the most recent 12 months for which figures are available.

Mr. Deakins said: 'The most recent available estimates of the average rate of return on capital net of stock appreciation for UK companies were given in an article in *Trade and Industry*, 24 October 1975, pages 244-247.'

British investment in Africa

A table was asked for by Mr. Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler (North West Norfolk) showing the latest estimates of cumulative British investments for each country in Africa and Mauritius and the Seychelles.

'The information available relates to the book value of direct investment excluding oil, banking and insurance,' said Mr. Deakins. 'The latest figures relate to the end of 1971 and were published in Table 35 of Business Monitor M4 Part II, Overseas Transactions 1972, a copy of which is in the Library. Figures for subsequent net flows of investment in 1972 and 1973 were published in Table 17 of Business Monitor M4, Overseas Transactions 1973 a copy of which is also in the Library.'

Mr. Brocklebank-Fowler aslo asked for a list showing those countries in Africa from which British companies have been unable to remit profits, giving latest estimates of the amount.

Mr. Deakins said: 'The following are known to restrict remittance abroad of *dividends* (as distinct from profits) whether or not the companies concerned are foreign-owned:

Algeria
Burundi
Egypt
Equatorial Guinea
Ghana
Guinea
Libya
Madagascar
Mozambique
Rwanda
Somalia
Southern Rhodesia
Tanzania
Zambia

In other countries where detailed criteria for exchange control are not stated the remittance of profits may be restricted.

'No estimates are available of the profits which companies have been unable to remit as a result of these restrictions. But if the Hon. Member will let me have details of any particular case in which he is interested, I will look into it.'

Anti-dumping investigations

Mr. Michael Marshall (Arundel) asked the Secretary of State for Trade: 'Whether, under his powers to prevent the dumping of steel products in the UK by non-EEC countries such as Spain and Japan, his department has adequate resources to investigate such cases promptly enough for action to be taken to prevent further damage to the UK producers, particularly in view of the complexity of applications involving special steel products, and the small number of staff being obliged to handle applications from a wide range of industries?'

Mr. Deakins replied: 'All anti-dumping investigations have to meet the requirements of the Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1969. Some cases such as that of steel products are more complex than others and take correspondingly longer to evaluate. It would clearly be wasteful and impracticable to maintain an anti-dumping staff of such a size that instant and undivided attention could be given to every application. But I am satisfied that the existing staff though hard-pressed do their best to deal promptly with cases. The prevention of further damage to an industry relates not so much to staff as to the strength of the evidence of material injury. If there is sufficiently strong and clear evidence both of dumping and of material injury then a provisional charge can be imposed if necessary at any stage of an investigation.'

US restrictions on steel imports

Mr. Michael Morris (Northampton South) asked what representations are being made to the US Government about their restrictions on special steel imports.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'The President has 60 days to decide whether he will accept the recommendation of the United States International Trade Commission for import quotas on certain speciality steel products. We are considering with the other members of the EEC what representations should be made.'

Import controls

Mr. Michael McGuire (Ince) asked for a list of the countries against which the UK has imposed *import controls, giving in each case, the reasons for so doing.*

'We have controls on some imports from every country in the world,' replied Mr. Deakins. 'The reasons for these controls vary from case to case but they include protection for domestic industries, conservation, public safety and political considerations. Details of the goods and countries affected are shown in the Open General Import Licence dated 5 July 1973 and its amendments; changes in the controls are announced in Notices to Importers published in *Trade and Industry.*'

Mr. McGuire also asked for details of any voluntarily agreed import controls at present existing between the UK and any other country.

Mr. Deakins answered: 'Apart from the auto-limitation arrangements relating to imports of textiles negotiated under the GATT Multifibre Arrangement, the only agreed voluntary restraints relate to imports of men's leather footwear, excluding sandals, from Czechslovakia, Poland and Romania. These countries voluntarily agreed to limit in 1975 their exports of these goods to the United Kingdom and we are inviting them to continue this restraint throughout 1976 and to extend its coverage to include similar footwear for women and children. We are also inviting them as well as the German Democratic Republic and Hungary to restrain their exports to us of men's woollen suits.'

Imports from Norway, Sweden and Finland

Mr. John Ovenden (Gravesend) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, what was the value of exports to Norway Sweden and Finland respectively of items covered by the duty free quota system for each year since the agreements were signed; and what were the corresponding figures for imports from those countries.

Mr. Shore gave the following figures for our imports under the agreements for the commodities in question (paper and some paper-based products), and for the corresponding exports:

£ million

	1972(2)	1973(2)	1974	Jan.-Nov. 1975
Norway(1)				
Imports (cif)		21.0	41.0	35.7
Exports (fob)		2.7	3.5	3.9
Sweden				
Imports (cif)	63.5	84.9	154.1	127.4
Exports (fob)	4.6	5.8	8.2	8.6
Finland				
Imports (cif)	47.4	69.7	144.4	113.7
Exports (fob)	2.5	2.5	4.8	5.3

Notes:

(1) The agreement with Norway was signed in May 1973.

(2) 1972 and 1973 figures exclude minor amounts of trade in printed globes, unused postage stamps and certain other items for which figures were not separately distinguished in those years.

Imports from Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan

Figures were requested by Mr. Joe Ashton (Bassetlaw) to show the value of imports of hosiery and knitwear from Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan in 1973, and the figures for the latest 12 months; and the percentage of home sales represented.

Mr. Deakins gave the following information:

	1973		12 months ending Sept. 1975		12 months ending Nov. 1975
	Imports £ million cif	Imports as percentage of home market Per cent	Imports £ million cif	Imports as percentage of home market Per cent	Imports £ million cif
Hong Kong	41.0	10	53.5	10	57.2
Republic of Korea	3.8	1	11.8	2	13.2
Taiwan	16.3	4	18.6	4	20.6

Note:

The import figures cover knitted or crocheted clothing and accessories classified under SITC(R) 841.41 to 44 and exclude knitted fabrics.

Estimates of the home market after September 1975 are not yet availabie.

Mr. Ashton also wanted to know the agreed quota of imported knitted jerseys from Hong Kong and knitted shirts from Taiwan; and the figures for the latest 12 months.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'Knitted jerseys from Hong Kong are imported under a quota covering pullovers, slip-overs, twin-sets, cardigans, bed-jackets and jumpers. The agreed quota was 17,585,000 pieces in 1975. During the 12 months ended 30 November 1975 imports amounted to 21,129,000 pieces. As a result of the further negotiations between the European Commission and Hong Kong the quota of 17,673,000 pieces for 1976 has been reduced to 15,915,000 to take account of over-shipments in 1975. The 1975 quota for knitted shirts (including sports shirts) from Taiwan was 2,378,000 pieces. In the 12 months ended 30 November 1975 imports of knitted shirts from Taiwan amounted to 3,584,752 pieces. The 1976 quota of 2,484,000 pieces has been combined with the 1975 quota so as to allow excess shipments in 1975 to be set against it.'

Imports of calculators

Mr. Doug Hoyle (Nelson and Colne) asked how many hand held and desk calculators were imported in 1974 and 1975; distinguishing between Japan and other countries.

Mr. Shore answered that the import statistics do not distinguish between hand held and desk calculators and gave the following available information for all types.

	1974	Jan.-Nov. 1975(a)
Total	1,105,281	2,838,254
of which:		
Japan	310,028	1,237,141
USA	241,205	560,079
Hong Kong	208,111	438,225
Italy	63,793	116,992
Federal Republic of Germany	62,828	110,905
Singapore	46,068	96,315
Malaysia	42,573	7,895
Netherlands	36,530	37,946
Spain	20,233	3,818
Bulgaria	12,400	116
France	11,261	10,620
Canada	8,809	48,080
Taiwan	5,739	75,020
Other	35,703	95,102

(a) During the whole of 1975 imports totalled 3,238,387.

Imports of hair dryers and toasters

Mr. Edwin Wainwright (Dearne Valley) wanted to know the number of hair-dryers and toasters, imported during each of the past five years, and the amount in each case in pounds sterling.

Mr. Deakins replied that between 1971 and 1975 imports of hair dryers rose from 27 thousand to 1,459 thousand and of toasters from 223 thousand to 638 thousand. The full figures were as follows:

	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Hair dryers					
No. ('000)	275	397	1,121	1,093	1,459
Value £000 cif	584	913	2,933	3,521	5,721
Toasters					
No. ('000)	223	273	524	692	638
Value £000 cif	587	809	1,721	2,580	2,850

Foreign airlines in UK

Mr. Kenneth Warren (Hastings): asked what negotiations are in progress to reduce the rights of foreign airlines to conduct revenue earning operations into and out of the UK.

'No formal negotiations are at present in progress with this aim in view,' replied Mr. Clinton Davis. 'However, in certain cases negotiations are in prospect which may lead to a reduction in the rights of foreign airlines unless we obtain compensating advantages.'

CAA licences

Mr. John H. Cordle (Bournemouth East) asked for a list showing each occasion that a Civil Aviation Authority licence has been granted to a UK airline prevented by HM Government from operating the licensed service, stating the reasons for the action taken.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered 'Licences for the following services issued by the Civil Aviation Authority could not be utilised by the UK airlines concerned without negotiations or other positive action on the part of HM Government:

Laker Airways London-New York (Skytrain)	Licence originally issued Sept. 1972 to run from Jan. 1973. Confirmed on appeal Dec. 1972 Licence reaffirmed and amended (revised fare) Feb. 1975, with a recommendation that the service should not be started for at least 12 months
British Caledonian Airways London-Toronto	Licence issued Aug. 1973, to run from Apr. 1974 Confirmed on appeal Dec. 1973
British Caledonian Airways London-Boston-Atlanta-Houston	
British Caledonian Airways London-Bahrein-Singapore	Licence issued Aug. 1973 to run from Jan. 1974

'Action to obtain the necessary agreements from the other Governments concerned was suspended in 1974 pending the Civil Aviation Policy Review – the results of which I announced in the House on 29 July 1975. The reasons for the decisions then taken will be explained more fully in the White Paper which will shortly be published.'

Skytrain

Mr. Cordle also asked for an estimate of the probable net benefit to the UK balance of payments during 1976-77 if the proposed Skytrain were allowed to commence operations and reached the *maximum licensed number of passengers (255,040 per annum) between Stansted and New York.*

'Any estimate must depend on what assumptions should be made about various factors including the conditions which the US authorities might impose on Skytrain and the competitive services which a US carrier or carriers would operate,' said Mr. Clinton Davis. 'On the basis of realistic assumptions, I expect that the net effect would be minimal or even negative. It would require considerably greater benefits to the balance of payments to override the policy considerations on which the decision on Skytrain was taken.'

Navigational charges at airports

Mr. John Stonehouse asked what representations have been made by local authorities about differential navigational charges at airports.

Mr. Shore replied: 'Representatives of the Joint Airports Committee of the Local Authorities came to see my Hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Companies, Aviation and Shipping on 31 July 1975 and he expects to see them again shortly. I will bear their views in mind in considering proposals for increases in certain navigation services charges whch I have just received from the CAA.'

British Airways

Mr. John Moore (Croydon Central) asked how much capital investment has been undertaken by British Airways in each year from 1960 to 1975, inclusive.

Mr. Clinton Davis gave the following information:

EXPENDITURE ON CAPITAL INVESTMENT BY BRITISH AIRWAYS

Year	£ million	Year	£ million
1960-61	49.7	1968-69	95.2
1961-62	39.0	1969-70	60.7
1962-63	27.4	1970-71	110.8
1963-64	39.7	1971-72	107.4
1964-65	45.7	1972-73	65.3
1965-66	35.2	1973-74	83.4
1966-67	28.4	1974-75	112.3
1967-68	45.6		

For the earlier years, the figures given are estimates derived from the records of the former air corporations BOAC and BEA.

Mr. Moore then asked 'about the number of employees at British Airways on 1 January 1966 and 1 January 1976, respectively.

'Figures for the precise dates requested are not readily available,' said Mr. Clinton Davis. 'On 31 March 1966 BEA and BOAC together had 38,206 employees. The corresponding figure for BA on 30 November 1975 was 54,785.'

Soviet shipping operations

Mr. R. C. Mitchell (Southampton, Itchen) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what discussions he has had with the General Council of British Shipping concerning action by the Russians in creaming off freight traffic by quoting seemingly loss making rates considerably lower than those which can be quoted by British shipowners.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'I discussed this aspect of Soviet shipping operations with the General Council of British Shipping in October last, following the Council's earlier talk with the Prime Minister. We are pursuing the matter with interested parties both in the UK and in international circles.'

Auxiliary coastguards

Dr. John Cunningham (Whitehaven) asked whether there has been any reduction in the total number of hours worked by the auxiliary coastguard service on the Cumbrian Coast, and if a reduction is currently under consideration.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'The hours worked by auxiliary coastguards in Cumbria in 1975 were approximately the same as in 1974, being of the order of 17,000. Figures now available show, however, that there was a considerable reduction in hours worked in the last quarter of 1975 as compared with the earlier part of the year.

'As I stated in my reply to my Right Hon. Friend, the honourable Member for Kingston-on-Hull Central on 18 December 1975, my Department has been looking into the hours worked by auxiliaries to ensure that all are essential to maintain the service at the optimum level. Watchkeeping work fluctuates with the degree of casualty risk but I am taking steps to ensure that the hours worked by auxiliaries on the Cumbrian coast are commensurate with their long term needs of the Search and Rescue Service.

'I would add that the number of Coastguard stations there has remained unchanged for 10 years, none is due to be closed, and the number of auxiliaries increased by 12 in 1975.'

DPCP information officers

Mr. Ian Wrigglesworth (Teesside, Thornaby) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection for details of the numbers and salaries of the extra public relations and information officers recruited by her department and agencies between 1970-71 and 1974-75.

Mrs. Williams replied: 'It is not possible to make this comparison for my Department since 1974-75 was its first year of existence. Since 1970-71 no extra information officers have been appointed to the Metrication Board or the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The Office of Fair Trading and the Prices Commission were both created between 1970-71 and 1974-75, all their information officers filling posts which had not hitherto existed. By the end of 1974-75 the following were in post, the salaries quoted being those now current.'

Grade	Price Commission	Office of Fair Trading	Salary
Chief Information Officer 'A'	1	—	£8,650-11,000
Chief Information Officer 'B'	—	1	£7,750-9,350
Principal Information Officer	2	1	£5,680-7,450
Senior Information Officer	2	3	£4,900-5,900
Information Officer	1	1	£3,900-4,700

All the above staff are in receipt of London Weighting, currently £465 per annum.

Exclusion clauses

Mr. Greville Janner (Leicester West) asked what consultations are taking place with the consumer, with legal interests, and with business interests, respectively, concerning legislation to implement the recommendations of the Law Commission to limit the effect of exclusion clauses in contracts for the provision of services; what stage these discussions have reached; and when these discussions are expected to be concluded.

'We are consulting some 300 bodies representing these interests,' said Mr. Williams. 'They were asked to let us have their views by the end of December, but a number of important interests have sought more time. I hope that the discussions can be concluded by the spring.'

National Consumer Council and voluntary consumer associations

Mr. Ioan Evans (Aberdare) asked if discussions would be instituted with the National Consumer Council and voluntary consumer associations to examine the possibility of mergers between such associations.

Mr. Williams replied: 'No, but we understand that the National Consumer Council is considering ways in which closer co-operation between the Council and voluntary consumer organisations can be achieved.'

Price increases and the Sandilands Report

Mr. Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked what would have been the effect on prices during 1975 if the Price Commission had allowed price increase submissions, based on maintaining operating profits as defined in the Sandilands Report, to be granted.

'It is not possible to make a precise estimate,' said Mr. Maclennan, 'but the potential difference between the present Price Code and the Code modified to incorporate the principles of the Sandilands Report would be substantial. The actual effect on prices in any period would depend on how far market constraints permitted firms to pitch prices at the maximum level permitted under the Code.'

Tuesday, 27 January

'An Approach to Industrial Strategy'

Mr. Michael Neubert (Havering, Romford) asked what was the basis for the choice of 30 as the number of key industrial sectors to be supported under the terms of the White Paper, 'An Approach to Industrial Strategy.'

Mr. Kaufman answered: 'We considered that this was the maximum number of sectors in manufacturing industry for which an effective and manageable operation could be mounted.'

Steel works in Scotland

Mr. Douglas Crawford (Perth and East Perthshire) asked what changes, if any, have taken place in the Government's proposals for closing selected steelworks in Scotland, produced after the Beswick Report.

'The Government has not proposed any changes,' said Mr. Kaufman. 'The British Steel Corporation and the TUC Steel Committee have agreed on the loading of plants that had been the subject of the closure review.'

US mission to UK

Mr. Nicholas Ridley (Cirencester and Tewkesbury) asked for a statement on the results of the visit in September 1975 of top US businessmen to the UK, sponsored by his department, to discuss inward investment into the UK.

Mr. Kaufman answered: 'The mission was suggested by a leading US industrialist whose company has a substantial and successful investment in the UK. Its purpose was to enable other top American businessmen to share his experience and to see for themselves the conditions obtaining in the UK for industrial investment. Most of the visitors represented companies with only a small stake, if any, in the UK. No immediate decisions to invest here were expected. However, subsequent reports have been very encouraging.'

Postal charges

Mr. George Rodgers (Chorley) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry has yet received any proposals from the Post Office for increases in postal charges in 1976.

'The Chairman of the Post Office has made it clear that the Post Office has no present plans for increasing letter prices,' said Mr. MacKenzie.

Soviet inspectors in British factories

Mr. Churchill (Stretford) asked the Secretary of State for Trade: 'Since when has it been normal practice in the fulfilment of Anglo-Soviet commercial contracts for Soviet inspectors to be attached to British factories to progress the contract and to ensure that equipment meets the contract specifications; and how many Soviet inspectors were so engaged in 1969 and each subsequent year?'

'For at least 30 years,' answered Mr. Shore. 'Separate records for Soviet inspectors were not kept before 1972 but the relevant figures for this and subsequent years are as follows:'

Year	Inspectors already in the UK	New visas authorised
1972	33	20
1973	15	48
1974	15	58
1975	46	83

'In the same period UK exports to the USSR increased from £90 million to £211 million.'

Assistance to wool textile industry

Mr. Bob Cryer (Keighley) asked for a statement about the scheme of assistance to the wool textile industry under Section 8 of the Industry Act 1972.

Mr. Kaufman gave the following information:

'There have been 208 applications under the scheme up to 31 December 1975, the closing date for applications. These projects represent investment worth approximately £83 million of which £59.5 million will be for new plant and machinery and £22 million will be in new and modernised buildings. About £28 million of this investment has already taken place, and the remaining £55 million will be invested in the two years to 31 December 1977, which are allowed to firms to complete their projects.

'The effects of the scheme will be assessed by the Wool Textile EDC. There is every indication that at a time when investment in industry generally and in textiles in particular is showing a marked decline, investment by the wool textile industry compares well with previous years, and with the rest of the textile industry. The industry should therefore be in a strong position to meet the demands on it which will result from the expected upturn in trade.

'The Government's contribution to all the projects submitted under the scheme will require more than the sum initially allotted to the scheme. It has therefore been decided to increase this sum to about £18 million so that all projects which satisfy the conditions of the scheme and were submitted before the closing date can be assisted.'

Wednesday, 28 January

Machine tools manufacture

Mr. Bob Cryer (Keighley) asked for a list of the tariffs currently faced by lathe manufacturers exporting to countries outside the EEC and the tariffs faced by those countries when exporting to this country.

Mr. Deakins answered: 'Examples of the tariff rates applicable to machine tools (which would generally include lathes) for some of the countries outside the EEC with which we have a substantial trade are as follows:

Country	Tariff on UK exports of machine tools	UK import duty on lathes
EFTA countries	Nil	Nil
United States	7.5%	6.3-9.6%
South Africa	Nil or 30%	4.8-7.2%
Canada	2.5%	4.8-7.2%

'In many cases, the rates of duty vary considerably according to the type of equipment.'

Trade with Vietnam

Mr. Cryer asked for a statement on British-Vietnam trade.

Mr. Deakins said: 'Although Vietnam's capacity for external trade is still very limited, opportunities are likely to increase as the country's economy is reorganised on a peacetime basis. The British Ambassador in Hanoi is in regular contact with the Ministry of Foreign Trade and the trading corporations.'

Brazilian import restrictions

Mr. David Watkins (Consett) asked about the outcome of discussions with the Brazilian Government on Brazilian import restrictions.

'In the course of the informal discussions the Brazilians have explained the background to their recent import restrictions,' said Mr. Deakins. 'It has been confirmed that they have acted under the provisions of Article XII of the GATT in order to safeguard the Brazilian balance of payments.'

Airport development in South Wales and South West England

Mr. Terry Walker (Kingswood) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade has received the advice of the Civil Aviation Authority on future airport development in South Wales and the South West of England.

Mr. Shore answered: 'The Civil Aviation Authority's advice has now been submitted to me, and has been published today with my agreement. This completes the Authority's advice on airport developments outside the South East of England and together with the previous advice on airport development in the Northern Region and in Central England will be taken into account in the preparation of Part II of the consultation document Airport Strategy for Great Britain. This document will provide the basis for consultations with local authorities, airport operators, amenity groups and others concerned with airport development on the future role of airports outside the London area. I hope to publish it shortly after Easter.' (See also *Trade and Industry*, 30 January, page 278.)

Agricultural machinery

Mr. Hamish Watt (Banff) asked: 'What has been the overall percentage rise in the cost of agricultural machinery over the past 18 months?'

Mr. Carmichael replied that between June 1974 and December 1975, on provisional figures, the wholesale price index for home-produced agricultural machinery, excluding VAT, rose by 39.7 per cent.

Semi-finished steel products

Mr. R. B. Cant (Stoke on Trent Central) referring to 'opposition from the EEC Competition Department', asked if the Secretary of State for Industry has now abandoned his proposal to finance a stockpile of semi-finished steel products to the value of £77 million by the British Steel Corporation.

Mr. Kaufman answered: 'The EEC Commission is considering the proposal to stockpile up to £70 million of semi-finished steel in the current financial year. Contrary to some press reports, the Commission has not expressed opposition to it.'

HS 146

Mrs. Helene Hayman (Welwyn and Hatfield) asked for a statement on the Department of Industry's reaction to the tripartite report on the HS 146 project and Mr. Paul B. Rose (Manchester, Blackley) asked if the HS 146 project would be reconsidered in the light of the consultations and the unemployment situation.

Mr. Kaufman answered: 'The Government's policy remains as stated in the House on 9 December 1974. The holding contract with HSA maintains sufficient tempo of work at the firm to make it practicable to restart the project in future should sales prospects improve. British Aerospace will review the future of this project.'

Potato crisp prices

Mr. Cryer asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection would institute an investigation into the recent announcements by potato crisp manufacturers of price increases, to ensure that current prices are not based on contracts agreed when potato prices were lower.

Mrs. Williams answered: 'The increases

by the major manufacturers, of which the most recent was announced in early December, were notified to the Price Commission and found to be compatible with the Price Code.'

Price Commission Inquiry into coal trade

Mr. John Cartwright (Greenwich, Woolwich East) asked about progress with the Price Commission's inquiry into the coal trade.

Mr. Maclennan said: 'The Price Commission's Report on the distribution of coal and solid smokeless fuels for domestic consumption was published yesterday and copies have been placed in the Library. The report brings out the extent to which prices of similar types and quality of fuel can vary between different regions, within regions, seasonally, and between different retailers, and makes certain recommendations aimed at benefiting consumers.

'I welcome the Report. It will, I hope, stimulate competition in retail coal distribution and encourage discrimination in the purchase of fuel. I understand that some consumers may still be under the misapprehension that they are tied to a single coal merchant, as in the days of rationing and registration, and that retail prices are controlled. I am glad of the opportunity to say that these are misapprehensions and should be dispelled by the Commission's Report. Coal merchants, like other distributors, are subject to the general Price Code restraints on net and gross profit margins, but within these limits there is plenty of scope of healthy competition on price and quality of service.

'The Price Commission make five specific recommendations.

'First, they recommend that prices of domestic solid fuels should continue to be monitored over the next few months, to assess the effect at retail level of recent changes in NCB prices and rail freight charges. I have asked the Commission to undertake this monitoring and to keep me informed of the results.

'Secondly, they recommend that fuller consumer information about domestic solid fuel prices should be made available. Local authorities who already undertake food price surveys with the aid of Government grants are being invited to consider whether they might vary these occasionally by surveying prices quoted by local merchants for coal and solid fuel. The Price Commission's conclusions will be brought to the attention of local consumer groups through my Department's Consumer Information Bulletin, and the Domestic Coal Consumers' Council whose help the Report invite will have an opportunity to advise me on whether there is further action that could appropriately be taken to disseminate price information.

'Thirdly, the Commission draw the attention of the trade to the wide variation of profits between different traders, and invite them to consider what might best be done to narrow this range. Within the general limits imposed by the Price Code, I consider that further pressure to restrain profits and prices can best be achieved by stimulating competition in the trade. To this end, action following the Commission's other recommendations should make an important contribution.

'The Price Commission's fourth recommendation relates to the NCB's contracting system for domestic coal and for smokeless fuels, and recommends that any such system should be designed with regard to the needs of consumers and the effect on prices.

'The NCB system is for first buyers to make contractual arrangements for specific quantities of various types of fuel. The system has been revised since the Price Commission completed their study. It will be reviewed in April, in the light of experience through the winter season.

'The NCB consider that their contractual arrangements are necessary for orderly marketing and should not be disadvantageous to domestic consumers in terms of price nor should they inhibit competition between coal merchants. The Board are conscious of the need to adjust contracted quantities to changing requirements, and there are formal and informal arrangements to secure this. There is no reason why a consumer should have difficulty in obtaining supplies from the merchant of his choice, except in cases where a fuel is in short supply nationally.

'I am inviting the Domestic Coal Consumers' Council to consider the operation of the scheme in its revised form in the light of the Price Commission's recommendations, and to let me have their views. My Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy is similarly requesting the NCB to report to him on the operation of the scheme following the review.

'Finally, the Price Commission draw attention to indications of a degree of price uniformity in certain areas that suggests that prices are effectively, if sometimes only informally, agreed. They recommend that any such arrangements should be discontinued. I am advised that the Price Commission have drawn the attention of all the traders who participated in their inquiry to the relevance of the restrictive practices legislation. Members of the public with evidence to suggest the existence of a registrable agreement, should bring it to the attention of the Office of Fair Trading.'

Price Commission report on sanitary protection

Mrs. Joyce Butler (Haringay, Wood Green) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what action she has taken on the report of the Price Commission on sanitary protection.

'In my statement to the House on 5 August, I referred to the Price Commission's recommendation that manufacturers of sanitary protection products should discontinue recommended retail prices or, if this could not be achieved, should reduce them by 10 per cent.

'The four manufacturers who recommended retail prices at the time of the Price Commission Report have informed me that they are discontinuing the practice. I am asking those responsible for the local price surveys which my Department finances to consider including sanitary protection products in future surveys.

'My Department has also pursued with manufacturers the prices which they charge to distributors. These talks have confirmed the Price Commission finding that the Price Code had prevented average prices rising as fast as costs and that the manufacture of sanitary towels was not an industry of high profitability. I have, therefore, concluded that there is no possibility of these companies reducing their prices and have accepted that although the companies will make every effort to keep any price increases within the 5 per cent limit of the Price Restraint Scheme, cost pressures both in their raw material supplies and from equal pay will prevent their formal inclusion in the Scheme.

'As regards the supply of tampons I am pleased to be able to tell the House that as a result of our discussions Tampax Ltd. have informed me that subject to unforeseeable developments in costs and to discussion of them with me, they intend to maintain until the end of the Selective Price Restraint Scheme in July next the price which they adopted in March of last year. Price stability over a period of 18 months of cost increases represents a commendable effort by the company to contribute to the fight against inflation and to share the benefits of their efficiency with their customers.

'Southalls, the other manufacturer of tampons, last increased the price in June last year. They have undertaken not to increase the price of tampons during the period of the Price Restraint Scheme subject again to unforeseeable increases in costs.'

Thursday, 29 January

Regional policy

Mr. Michael McGuire asked what power the Secretary of State for Industry has to direct industry to new towns.

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'The Government has no powers to direct firms to particular locations but regional incentives are available to attract industry to new towns in the Assisted Areas. The advantages of setting up in business in the new towns are drawn to the attention of industrialists.'

Mr. John Pardoe (North Cornwall) wanted to know the number of new jobs created by regional aid and the number of new jobs created by regional aid per 1,000 employees in each development area in each year since 1966-67.

'Information is not available in precisely the form requested.' said Mr. MacKenzie. 'Details of additional employment expected to arise in the Assisted Areas of Great Britain from projects assisted under the Local Employment Acts and in the Economic Planning Regions under Section 7 of the Industry Act, 1972, for the years 1966/67 to 1974/75, are given in Tables 1 and 2 below.'

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 437, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

TABLE 1 Additional employment estimated to arise from projects offered assistance under the Local Employment Acts ('000)

Financial year	Northern	Development areas Merseyside	South Western	Total* England	Welsh	Scottish	IAs	Total
1966-67	24	11	2	37	13	36	—	86
1967-68	19	8	2	29	14	25	—	67
1968-69	26	9	3	38	15	23	Nil	75
1969-70	34	14	3	50	18	27	1	97
1970-71	23	9	3	35	13	25	10	83
1971-72	12	7	3	22	9	17	14	62
1972-73	13	5	2	20	10	20	11	61
1973-74	5	1	..	6	5	10	4	24
1974-75	3	1	..	4	7	5	2	18

The totals have been rounded and do not necessarily add up.

* Including assistance offered in the former Development Districts; coverage of area has varied over time. Intermediate areas were instituted in 1970.

.. = Less than 500.

TABLE 2 Employment associated with projects offered assistance under Section 7 of the Industry Act ('000)

	Financial year 1972/73	1973/74	1974/75
Scotland	3	16	15
Wales	2	11	13
Northern Region	3	15	9
Yorkshire and Humberside Region	1	12	8
South West Region	1	2	2
North West Region	2	15	9
East Midlands	—	1	2
Total	12	72	58

'These tables do not give a full account of the direct job-creation effects of regional aids to industry as the major instruments (Regional Development Grant and Regional Employment Premium) are payable without any condition as the creation of employment. As a result it would be misleading to relate the number of new jobs arising from projects assisted under the Local Employment Acts and the Industry Act 1972 to the numbers of employees in each development or intermediate area.'

Sir Paul Bryan (Howden) asked what sums were received by Scotland under the Industry Act 1972; and what sums were received by the Yorkshire and Humberside Region.

Mr. MacKenzie said that up to 31 March 1975, the latest date to which a full regional breakdown is available, payments in Scotland totalled £167 million and payments in the Yorkshire and Humberside region £25 million.

Mr. Paul B. Rose (Manchester, Blackley) asked if immediate steps would be taken to stimulate investment and industrial activity in the North West to initiate new projects and cut unemployment.

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'The whole of the North West is an Assisted Area. The region's problems are at their most acute in Merseyside which was made a Special Development Area in August 1974.

'We shall not hesitate to take whatever action is feasible. We have already made considerable sums of money available to stimulate new investment in 1976, and in addition there is a new Government advance factory building programme from which the North West will benefit substantially. Furthermore my Rt. Hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced on 14 January that a further £30 million would be made available to encourage new investment.'

Mr. John Stonehouse asked about measures being taken to attract industry to the West Midlands in view of the widespread unemployment in the region and the threatened further redundancies in the car component supply industries.

Mr. MacKenzie said: 'The Government is concerned about the level of unemployment in the West Midlands. The measures announced in recent months by my Rt. Hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer to bring forward capital investment, together with Government investment, particularly in the motor and machine tool industries, will help the West Midlands as well as other regions.'

Post Office Giro

Mr. Neville Trotter (Tynemouth) asked the Secretary of State for Industry: 'Whether the Post Office in seeking his approval to the extension of its facilities by the issue of credit cards indicated the likely cost of establishing such a facility against the competition of existing credit card systems and produced evidence of the need and demand for such a facility?'

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'As the White Paper on the Development of National Giro (Cmnd. 6344) makes clear, the introduction of credit cards by the National Giro has only been accepted in principle and no detailed proposals have been made to the Government. Whenever the Post Office submits firm proposals all the relevant factors will be considered.'

Mr. Trotter also inquired about any report or reports containing evidence of the need for the Post Office Giro to extend its operations by offering overdraft facilities to companies and of the likely demand for such facilities, and what evidence was produced as to the need for the Post Office Giro to extend its operations by offering such overdraft facilities.

Mr. MacKenzie replied: 'A number of studies, commissioned by National Giro, into the demand for wider banking facilities, including the provision of convenience overdrafts to businesses, have confirmed the need for such facilities. Major business customers have also asked Giro directly for overdraft facilities. These findings were taken into account by the Government in framing its proposals for the extension of the Post Office's banking powers. The market studies contain information of commercial value. As is normal in these circumstances, it would be inappropriate to make them public.'

Mr. Tebbit asked the estimated target set for the Post Office expressed as a rate of return on assets employed for the current financial year.

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'Under the Post Office (Banking Services) Bill it is intended to set a target for Giro for the three year period from April 1975 of an annual average return of 12½ per cent on public dividend capital plus retained profit, after interest on the remaining loan capital. There are no financial targets set for the other Post Office businesses for the current financial year. I hope that with the elimination of deficits, it will be possible to re-establish financial targets for them in the fairly near future.'

Mr. Tebbit then asked: 'What was the rate of return in the last year for which accounts are available on the assets employed in the Post Office?'

Mr. MacKenzie said: 'For the telecommunications business, the return (before compensation) as a percentage of net assets was 5.2 per cent in 1974/75. The financial performance of the other Post Office businesses is not normally measured in this way. However, the corresponding figure for the Post Office as a whole would be about 3.2 per cent.'

Official appointments

Mr. Phillip Holland (Carlton) asked the Secretary of State for Industry for a list of those bodies other than committees, but including statutory corporations to which he appoints members other than civil servants, stating the number of members serving on each body.

Mr. Kaufman gave the following list which excludes various advisory committees and similar bodies:

	No. of members
British Steel Corporation	16
Cotton Industry War Memorial Trust	8
Design Council	29
Design Council Scottish Committee	19
English Industrial Estates Corporation	4
Furniture Development Council	17
National Computing Centre Ltd.	6
National Enterprise Board	9
National Research Development Corporation	10
Post Office	12
Requirements Boards, as follows:	
Chemicals and Minerals	13
Chief Scientist's	14
Computers, Systems and Electronics	9
Engineering Materials	8
Garment and Allied Industries	8
Mechanical Engineering and Machine Tools	7
Metrology and Standards	10
Ship and Marine Technology	9

British Steel Corporation

Mr. Tebbit asked what was the rate of return in the last available year on the assets employed in the British Steel Corporation; what is the estimated target set for the BSC expressed as a rate of return on assets employed for the current financial year; whether the corporate plan has been agreed for the financial years ending in 1976, 1977 and 1978 in respect of the activities of the BSC; and, if so, what targets have been set; and what are the latest estimated trading results for the current year for the BSC.

Mr. Kaufman replied: 'The British Steel Corporation has been set a financial target of making an average annual rate of return of 8 per cent on net assets over the four year period from the financial year 1973/74 to the financial year 1976/77, targets are not set for the individual years within the period. The Corporation made a return (before long-term interest, taxation and extra-ordinary items) of 8.9 per cent on its average net assets during its 1974/75 financial year. Following the loss of £125 million announced for the first half of the 1975/76 financial year, the Corporation's deficit for the full year now seems unlikely to be less than £300 million.

'My Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State discusses BSC's corporate plans with the Corporation but many aspects of these plans do not require his agreement. Approvals have been giving relating to BSC's capital investment over the period up to 1978/79. I envisage that in due course there will be a planning agreement between the Government and the Corporation.'

Govan Shipbuilders

Mr. Trotter asked what was the output of Govan Shipbuilders Ltd. in terms of gross registered tonnage per man in 1975; and what percentage improvement this represented over the level of productivity operating when the company was founded in 1972.

Mr. Kaufman said: 'Govan Shipbuilders Ltd. inform me that their output in terms of gross registered tonnage completed per man was 18.4 tons in 1975. The comparable figures for 1973 (which was the company's first full calendar year of operation) and 1974 were 22.8 tons and 17.5 tons, respectively.

'The Hon. Member will appreciate that these figures are not a measurement of productivity and depend inter alia on the degree of sophistication of the ships being built at any particular time.'

British Airways

Mr. Norman Tebbit (Waltham Forest, Chingford) asked what was the rate of return in the last available year on the assets employed in British Airways.

'The rate of return on the mean net assets of British Airways for 1974/75 is set out on page 4 of the Annual Report and Accounts for that year, a copy of which is available in the Library,' said Mr. Clinton Davis.

Mr. Tebbit also asked the estimated target set for British Airways expressed as a rate of return on assets employed for the current financial year, if the corporate plan has been agreed for the financial years ending in 1976, 1977 and 1978 in respect of the activities of British Airways; and, if so, what targets have been set and what are the latest estimated trading results for the current year.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'My Rt. Hon. Friend discussed British Airways corporate plan for the years 1975/76 to 1979/80 with the Board last April. At that time it was projected that the Board's operations would on average break even over the period 1975/76 to 1977/1978. I understand that the latest view is that there will be no profit in 1975/76 and therefore no return on the assets employed by the Board.'

Concorde – noise

Mr. Barney Hayhoe (Hounslow, Brentford and Isleworth) asked how many complaints were received about the noise of Concorde at Heathrow on its first commercial flight to and from Bahrain.

'My Department and the British Airports Authority have received a total of three complaints,' said Mr. Clinton Davis.

Bread subsidy

Mr. Neil Marten (Banbury) asked: 'What is the cost of the bread subsidy on an annual basis; and what is the estimated cost of administering it?'

Mr. Maclennan answered: 'At the present rate of subsidy of £4.06 per sack of flour the annual cost of the bread subsidy is estimated at £64 million. The total costs of administration are now estimated to be of the order of £650,000 on an annual basis or approximately 1p for every £1 of subsidy.'

Petrol retailing

Mr. Walter Johnson (Derby South) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, what actions he proposes to assist small garage owners.

Mrs. Williams said: 'As my Hon. Friend knows, my Department has been inquiring into the present situation in petrol retailing jointly with the Department of Energy and the Department of Industry. The inquiry has now been completed and I am considering the results.'

Friday, 30 January

Phosphate rock

Mr. T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked what proportion of UK requirements of phosphate rock was imported from the Office Chérifien des Phosphates in 1974 and 1975; what were the average prices ruling in early 1973 and 1976; and what is the trend and the average P.O. content of the ores.

Mr. Carmichael answered that in 1974, 75 per cent of UK imports of phosphate rock were imported from Office Chérifien des Phosphates (Morocco); in the 11 months ended November 1975, the figure was 74 per cent. The average price of Moroccan phosphate rock has moved from $20 per tonne (delivered) in early 1973 to about $68 per tonne (delivered) currently. The trend in the quality of imported rock is slowly downwards.

Mr. Skeet asked what percentage of imported phosphate rock in 1974 and 1975 was earmarked for (a) fertilisers (b) detergents and (c) other specified uses.

Mr. Carmichael said that between 75 and 80 per cent of imported phosphate rock is used for fertiliser manufacture. Figures for other industries are not available.

Phosphate rock deposits in EEC

Mr. Skeet asked whether there are phosphate rock deposits in any of the EEC countries; and what proportion of world trade in phosphate rock is covered by the EEC states.

Mr. Carmichael said: Both France and West Germany have small deposits of phosphate rock; combined output in 1974 totalled 0.1 per cent of total world production. In 1974, EEC countries accounted for 34 per cent of world imports in volume terms. There were no exports from EEC countries.

Mr. Skeet also asked in what parts of the Commonwealth there are significant quantities of phosphate rock available.

'Substantial deposits of phosphate rock exist in Australia; that country plans by mid-1976 to produce some 1 million tonnes of rock from the new mines now operating in Queensland,' said Mr. Carmichael.

UK share of world trade

Figures were asked for by Mr. Peter Hordern (Horsham and Crawley) showing the UK share of world trade, quarterly, since January 1974.

Mr. Deakins gave the UK per cent share of exports of manufactures (SITC section 5–8) by value by the 12 main manufacturing countries seasonally adjusted as follows:

1974				1975		
1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.
8.7	8.9	8.8	8.7	9.7 p	9.2 p	8.9 p

p = provisional.
Source: OECD Statistics of Foreign Trade.

EEC—intra-community trade

Mr. Neil Marten asked for an estimate of the decline of intra-community trade between countries of the EEC in comparison with the export demand generated by these countries as a whole.

Mr. Deakins said: The proportion of intra-community trade in the total value of exports has fallen from 52½ per cent in 1973 to 50½ per cent in 1974. In the first half of 1975 the seaonally unadjusted share was 49 per cent.

'Community estimates suggest the volume of EEC exports to the rest of the world fell by only about ½ per cent between the first halves of 1974 and 1975 whereas exports in intra-trade fell by about 13 per cent. These figures reflect the particular course of the present depression in world trade and the growth of demand for manufactured exports in OPEC markets.'

Tyre factory in Cuba

Mr. Paul B. Rose asked the Secretary of State for Trade for a statement on his negotiations with Cuba for a tyre factory to be installed by British engineering firms.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'My Rt. Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Trade, referred to the tyre factory project in discussions with the Cuban Government during his visit to Cuba last November and then expressed his firm hope that the British based bid would be successful. My Department is in touch with the British industry concerned but it would not be helpful for me to comment on commercial negotiations which they are conducting with the Cubans.'

Comparison of subsonic and supersonic flights

Mr. Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked how many subsonic flights to destinations on the Gulf area take less time and cost less than supersonic flights via Bahrain.

Mr. Shore replied: 'The Concorde service to Bahrain, which is selling well, is not designed to compete with all subsonic services to Gulf destinations but is the first leg of the service to Australia. Bahrain does not yet have suitable connections to all points in the Gulf.

'Concorde fares, based on First Class plus a surcharge, must of course be higher than subsonic fares but are justified by the saving of time.'

Consumer advice centres

Mr. Tony Durant (Reading North) inquired the total cost to local authorities in England and Wales of providing consumer advice services; and what proportion of this cost is represented by: (a) staff salaries, (b) pre-shopping advice and (c) payments to the Consumers' Association.

Mr. Maclennan said: 'The estimated cost of consumer advice services to local authorities in 1975/6 is £1.9 million. The more detailed information sought is not available.'

Trade Information

British/Romanian Joint Commission meets in Bucharest

The British/Romanian Joint Commission held its third session in Bucharest from 19 to 23 January under the joint chairmanship of Peter Preston, Deputy Secretary in the Department of Trade, and Mr. C. Stanciu, Romanian Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and International Economic Co-operation.

The British delegation included representatives from industry as well as officials from the Department of Trade, Department of Industry and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The Joint Commission reviewed the development of trade and industrial, technological and scientific co-operation between the UK and Romania in the period since its last meeting in London in January, 1975.

The Joint Commission welcomed the development of economic co-operation during the past 12 months and recognised the contribution to this development made by the discussions which took place in Bucharest in September 1975 between the Prime Minister and President Ceausescu.

The Joint Commission identified a number of co-operation possibilities for the future, including developments in the aircraft, machine tool, metallurgical and chemical industries, and looked forward to the conclusion of specific agreements in several fields during 1976. It was agreed that missions would be arranged to facilitate the further study of specific proposals in the fields of metallurgy, machine tools and mining.

During the week of the Joint Commission Mr. Preston had meetings with several representatives of the Romanian Government, including Mr Patan, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Trade; Mr. Oprea, Vice Prime Minister; Mr. Almasan, Minister of Mining, Petroleum and Geology; Mr. Nicolae, Deputy Minister of the Chemical Industry; Mr. Pinzaru, Deputy Minister of Machine Building, and Mr. Constantinescu, Deputy Minister of Metallurgy. Where appropriate Mr. Preston was accompanied at these meetings by one of the industrial members of the British delegation.

The next meeting of the Joint Commission, which meets annually alternately in London and Bucharest, will take place in London during the first quarter of 1977.

ECGD News

£8.5 million for Indonesian radio and television. The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed an £8.5 million loan which Barclays Bank has made available to the Indonesian Ministry of Finance.

The loan will help finance contracts placed with Pye TVT Ltd. and the Marconi Co. Ltd. by the Indonesian Ministry of Information as part of its expansion programme for national radio and television networks.

The equipment will include VHF television transmitters and antennae, high frequency single sideband communications network, film processing equipment and television studio equipment for installation on the islands of Java, Madura, Sumatra, and Kalimantan. All the equipment is scheduled to be fully operative by the end of 1976.

Two SD14 cargo vessels for Norway. The Exports Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a £6.6 million loan which Williams and Glyn's Bank Ltd. has made available to Wallem Steckmest and Co. A/S, Norway, to help finance the purchase of two Austin and Pickersgill SD14 cargo vessels. The ships are scheduled for delivery in the first half of 1978.

Two £10 million lines of credit for USSR. The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed two £10 million lines of credit which have been made available to Vneshtorgbank, the Foreign Trade Bank of the USSR. Morgan Grenfell and Co. Ltd. arranged one on conjunction with Lloyds Bank Ltd. and the other was concluded by Lloyds Bank acting on their own behalf.

The loans will help finance a wide range of capital goods and associated services contracts placed in the UK by Russian buyers. UK exporters will receive 80 per cent of the contract price from the loan; the remaining 20 per cent is payable from the buyer's own resources.

To qualify under the terms of either loan a contract must have a minimum value of £50,000 and be placed by 31 October 1977.

Exporters interested in further details of these facilities should contact either Mr. S. Holby of ECGD (tel. 01-606 6699, ext. 7154) or Mr. J. S. S. Syrett for the line operated by Morgan Grenfell (tel. 01-588 4545) or Mr. R. C. Watts for the line operated by Lloyds Bank (tel. 01-626 1500, ext. 3237).

Line of credit for Denmark. The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a £1 million line of credit which Barclays Bank has made available to Kjobenhavns Handlesbank A/S, Denmark. The loan will help finance capital goods and associated services contracts placed in the UK by Danish buyers.

Under the terms of the loan a contract must have a minimum value of £10,000 and be placed by 30 November 1976. UK exporters will receive 80 per cent of the contract price from the loan; the remaining 20 per cent is payable from the buyer's own resources.

Exporters interested in further details of this facility should contact either Mr. R. Singh of ECGD (tel. 01-606 6699, ext. 615) or Mrs. V. M. Calthorpe of Barclays Bank International (tel. 01-283 8989, ext. 3276).

£2 million line of credit for Sweden. The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a £2 million line of credit which Lloyds Bank Ltd. has made available to Gotabanken AB, Sweden. The loan will help finance contracts placed in the UK by Swedish buyers of capital goods and associated services.

Exporters will receive 80 per cent of the UK contract price from the loan after shipment of the goods; the remaining 20 per cent is payable from the buyer's own resources. To qualify, a contract must have a minimum value of £10,000 and be placed by 31 July 1977.

For further details of this facility contact either Mr. P. Grindlay of ECGD (tel. 01-606 6699, ext. 7340) or Mr. V. J. Rawley of Lloyds Bank (tel. 01-626 1500, ext. 3238).

Hints to business men booklets

Revised editions of the booklets on Uruguay and Israel have been published in the 'Hints to Business Men' series. British business men who intend visiting these countries on export business can obtain copies of the booklets from Export Services and Promotions Division, Department of Trade, Room D 05, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7146, or any Regional Office of the Departments of Trade and Industry.

Advertisements are accepted for all booklets in the series which covers over 100 countries. All inquiries about advertising should be addressed to Cheiron Press Ltd., 8/10 Parkway, London NW1 7AD, tel. 01-267 1285.

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Divisions, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension. In the Tariff and Trade Notices section countries are grouped by continents as far as possible; they are listed alphabetically on the contents page.

Notices to Importers

Issued by the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH.

No. 1542: Imports of potatoes other than seed potatoes

Notice to Importers No. 1505, dated 5 September 1975, set out the import licensing arrangements for new and maincrop potatoes on and after 1 September 1975. Subsequent Notices to Importers extended these arrangements to 29 February 1976.

Established traders may now apply for an Open Individual Licence valid until 31 May 1976 entitling them to import without restrictions as to quantity and value potatoes other than seed potatoes originating in, and consigned from, any of the countries or parts of countries listed below. Each application on form ILB/A should be accompanied by a statement as worded in the Annex to this notice. On page 3 of the application form ONLY the applicant's name, address and reference (if any) should be entered.

These licences will only be issued on condition that the holder will provide weekly returns of tonnages imported in the preceding week; *nil* returns will be required. Failure to supply these returns will result in the cancellation of the licence. Returns should be sent to the following address:

Mr. G. P. Hobrough
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Potato Division
Great Westminster House
Horseferry Road
London SW1P 2AE

Although Open Individual Licences will be available to traders receiving regular consignments, Individual Import Licences will still be granted valid until 31 May 1976 to traders wishing to import only occasional consignments. The licences, which will be issued in metric quantities on a consignment basis, will be valid for imports of potatoes other than seed potatoes, originating in, and consigned from, any of the countries, or parts of countries listed below. Traders with partly or un-used existing licences valid until 29 February 1976 may return them to ILB for the validity to be extended until 31 May 1976.

Applications for licences should be made on Form ILB/A and sent to the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH.

All potato imports are subject to the requirements of Orders made by the Agricultural Departments under the Plant Health Act 1967. Under these Orders maincrop potatoes may be imported into Great Britain from the following countries or parts of countries:

Algeria
Arab Republic of Egypt
Australia
Cyprus
France (including Corsica)
Greece
Republic of Ireland
Luxembourg
Malta
Federal Republic of Germany
  The provinces of Schelswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony north of the Mittleland Canal
Morocco
Netherlands
Israel
Italy (including Sardinia and Sicily)
Kenya
Lebanon
Libya
Portugal (including the Azores and Madeira)
Republic of South Africa
Spain (including the Balearic Islands and Canary Islands)
Switzerland
Tunisia

However, in some cases imports are restricted on plant health grounds during certain times of the year and special

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Export pictures

Each week *Trade and Industry* publishes pictures illustrating Britain's export business. Companies with export successes are invited to send in the story, with a photograph showing the goods in manufacture, ready for despatch, or, preferably, on arrival overseas. The story must, of course, reach us while it is still news. Send your news and photographs to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

arrangements apply to certain countries; full details can be obtained from Plant Health Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (tel. 01-216 7566), or the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland (tel. 031-443 4020), as appropriate. Northern Ireland plant health regulations provide that no maincrop potatoes may be imported into Northern Ireland unless a plant health licence has been granted by the Department of Agriculture there in addition to an import licence issued by the Department of Trade. Details of the plant health requirements for Northern Ireland may be obtained from the Department of Agriculture (tel. 0232-650111, ext. 501).

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch tel. 01-603 4644, ext. 281.

ANNEX

Department of Trade
Import Licensing Branch
Charles House
375 Kensington High Street
London W14 8QH

UNDERTAKING BY IMPORTER

If an Open Individual Licence is issued in respect of my/our application(s) reference .... date .... relating to imports of potatoes under the provisions of Notice to Importers No. 1542 I/we undertake to supply to the Department of Trade or the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food such information about imports under the licence as requested.

Name and address of applicant: Signature ....
Status
.... (proprietor, partner,
company director,
.... company secretary)

.... Date ....

No. 1543: Television tubes from the Eastern Area

With effect from 6 February 1976 the following goods may be imported from the Eastern Area under the authority of the Open General Import Licence (ie without the need for an individual import licence):

Tariff heading	Description of goods
ex 85.21	Monochrome television tubes

At the same time the quota facilities which existed for the importation of colour television tubes (ex 85.21) from the Eastern Area have been withdrawn and import licences for such goods will not be issued. The following quota descriptions and levels replace those which appeared in the lists which formed part of Notice to Importers No. 1533.

Imports from Czechoslovakia:

No.	CCT heading no.	Description	Value £'000 cif or quantity
19	ex 85.21	Electronic valves and semi-conductors	255

Imports from the German Democratic Republic:

No.	CCT heading no.	Description	Value £'000 cif or quantity
15	ex 85.21	Electronic valves and semi-conductors	140

Imports from Hungary:

No.	CCT heading no.	Description	Value £'000 cif or quantity
18	ex 85.21	Electronic valves and semi-conductors	515

Imports from Poland:

No.	CCT heading no.	Description	Value £'000 cif or quantity
19	ex 85.21	Electronic valves and semi-conductors	335

Imports from Romania:

No.	CCT heading no.	Description	Value £'000 cif or quantity
18	ex 85.21	Electronic valves and semi-conductors	110

Imports from the USSR:

No.	CCT heading no.	Description	Value £'000 cif or quantity
9	ex 85.21	Electronic valves and semi-conductors	265

The Eastern Area as defined in the Open General Import Licence means Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic and Berlin (East), Hungary, North Korea, North Vietnam, the People's Republic of China, The People's Republic of Mongolia, Poland, Romania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

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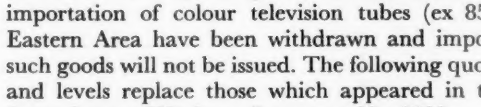

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Further suspension of anti-dumping duty on East German confectionery twist wrapping machines

The Department of Trade has made an order suspending for a further period until 30 June 1977 the anti-dumping duty of £2,250 per machine on imports of machinery, originating in the German Democratic Republic, for wrapping pre-formed individual pieces of confectionery. The duty was imposed by the Anti-Dumping (No. 2) Order 1972 (SI 1972 No. 1371) and, following undertakings by the exporters, was suspended until 20 February 1976 by the Anti-Dumping Duty (Temporary Suspension) Order 1975 (SI 1975 No. 54).

The new order, the Anti-Dumping Duty (Temporary Suspension) Order 1976 (SI 1976 No. 112) comes into operation on 21 February 1976. Before the end of the period of suspension the situation will be re-examined.

Copies of the Order will be obtainable from HMSO, 49 High Holborn, London WC1 or by post from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 (from 10 February).

Acrylic sheet – anti-dumping investigation

The Department of Trade has accepted for investigation an application for the imposition of anti-dumping duties under the Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1969 on acrylic sheet imported from the United States of America.

A statement of the applicants case will be made available to any interested parties who give an undertaking to treat the information contained therein in confidence.

Any representations which interested parties may wish to make in connection with the application should be submitted in writing not later than 1 March 1976. Such representations in summarised form and without attribution to the source may be passed to the applicants for comment. Those making representations should stipulate any points which they do not wish to be disclosed.

Requests for a copy of the statement, together with an undertaking in the terms set out above, should be sent to the Department of Trade, General Division, Room 326, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SH.

Applications for temporary exemption from import duty

The Department of Trade is considering applications for the temporary exemption from import duty of the materials listed below on the grounds that these materials are not made in this country or the Commonwealth or the supply available is not substantial having regard to the existing UK demand.

Representations are invited from manufacturers in this country or agents of Commonwealth manufacturers who consider they are, or will be within a reasonable period, in a position to supply a substantial proportion of the UK demand for these materials, or who are interested in their future production.

Temporary exemptions come into effect on the operative date of the Treasury Order in which the materials are specified and *will remain in operation until the date shown in column 4 below* or for such shorter period as may be justified.

Interested parties who wish to make representations should address them to General Division, Department of Trade, Kingsgate House, 66/74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, preferably through a Trade Association, giving the respective reference shown below and stating whether their names may be passed to the applicants for temporary exemption.

Representations should be received by 20 February.

Tariff heading	Proposed definition for tariff purposes	Applied for as	Exemption required until	Reference
73.08	Iron or steel coils for re-rolling	As in previous column	30 June 1976	T 12902
73.12	'Electrical' hoop and strip of iron or steel, cold-rolled, whether or not varnished, but not otherwise surface treated or worked; of thickness of less than 3mm	Electrical steel	30 June 1976	T 15008
	Strip of iron or steel, coated with tin, of a width not less than 304mm and not more than 500mm, of a thickness of not less than 0.12mm and not more than 0.5mm, and of a length of not more than 1,016mm	Tinplate	30 June 1976	T 10813/2
	Strip of iron or steel, in coil form, coated with tin, of a width of not less than 140mm, and not more than 500mm, and of a thickness of not less than 0.12mm and not more than 0.5mm	Tinplate	30 June 1976	T 10813/2
73.13	'Electrical' sheets and plates, of iron or steel, hot-rolled or cold-rolled but not plated, coated or clad or otherwise worked	Electrical steel	30 June 1976	T 15024
	Sheets of iron or steel, cold-rolled but not coated or otherwise worked, not exceeding 3mm in thickness	As in previous column	30 June 1976	T 14363
	Sheets of iron or steel, hot-rolled but not coated or otherwise worked, not exceeding 3mm in thickness	As in previous column	30 June 1976	T 14630
	Sheets of iron or steel, coated with tin, of a width exceeding 500mm but not more than 966mm, of a thickness of not less than 0.12mm and not more than 0.5mm, and of a length of not more than 1,016mm	Tinplate	30 June 1976	T 10813/2
	Sheets of iron or steel, in coil form, coated with tin, of a width exceeding 500mm but not more than 966mm, and of a thickness of not less than 0.12mm and not more than 0.5mm	Tinplate	30 June 1976	T 10813/2
73.15	Steel sheets, rectangular or in coils, being steel containing not less than 2.0% nor more than 3.5% by weight of silicon as the major alloying element; with a manganese content exceeding 0.1% and an aluminium content exceeding 0.01%; whether or not coated and of a width not exceeding 1,250mm and a thickness not exceeding 1.6mm	Electrical steel	30 June 1976	T 10895

Turkey: Import Programme 1976

The Turkish authorities have now published the Import Programme for 1976. This as in past years is divided into three sections:

Liberalisation List I covers items for which import licences are freely issued;

Liberalisation List II covers items for which the issue of import licences is controlled by a determined ministry;

Allocation List for goods which are subject to quota restrictions as well as import licensing. Applications for a share of the quotas should be lodged with the appropriate authority by February for imports to be carried out in the first half of the year, by August for imports which will take place in the second half of the year.

This year's programme shows few changes from that of last year, but importers wishing to confirm that their goods still appear on the same import list should contact OTAR Section ext. 439.

Tariff and Trade Notices

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Divisions, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension. In the Tariff and Trade Notices section countries are grouped by continents as far as possible; they are listed alphabetically on the contents page.

Finland

1976 tariff rates. In accordance with the Finland/EEC Trade Agreement, on 1 January 1976 Finland further reduced her duties on most industrial goods of EEC origin. UK manufactured goods which qualified for duty-free entry into Finland during 1975 will continue to enter duty-free in 1976.

Inquiries (stating the BN number): OTAR ext. 458/461.

Federal Republic of Germany

Law on washing agents. A law was promulgated on 20 August 1975 covering the compatibility of washing and cleaning agents wtih the environment. In future washing and cleaning agents may be offered for sale only if the organic substances contained in them can be reduced to a sufficient degree. Manufacturers and importers have to inform the Federal Environmental Office on the composition of their washing and cleaning agents. Washing and cleaning agents may be offered for sale only if the following data are printed on the packing material or cover in German and in a writing which is visible and clearly legible:

major ingredients
name of the product
manufacturer or importer
recommendations on dosage.

A copy of the law (in German) is available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 467.

Spain

Opening of global quotas. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 1 January announced details of the global quotas for 1976. In the *State Gazette*, 24 January 1976, the Spanish authorities invited applications from Spanish importers, merchants and industrialists against the following quotas for the first half of 1976. Applications must be presented within 24 days from 24 January:

Quota no.	Tariff no.	Goods	Value of quota pesetas
62	ex 84.06.B.2.b ex 84.06.B.2.c 84.06.B.2.d 84.06.C.1 ex 84.06.D.2	Non liberalised marine engines and parts for their manufacture	236,330,666
63	ex 84.10.F.2.a ex 84.10.F.2.b ex 84.11.D.3	Non liberalised motor pumps and motor compressors	42,871,776
64	84.41.A.1 ex 84.41.C	Domestic sewing machines and their parts	6,600,000
65	85.15.A.1 85.15.A.2	TV and radio receivers	32,670,000
66	85.15.B.1 85.15.B.2 85.15.B.3	Radio transmitters and transmitter receivers	71,390,000

Inquiries (detailing the goods in which interested): OTAR ext. 462/471/472/473.

In the *State Gazette*, 29 January, authorities invited applications from Spanish importers, merchants and industrialists against the following quotas for the first half of 1976. Applications must be presented within one month from 29 January.

Quota no.	Tariff no.	Goods	Value Pesetas
9	15.10.C	Industrial fatty alcohols	43,257,500
10	17.02.A.1 17.02.B.1	Glucose and lactose, chemically free	43,257,500
15	28.02 28.14.A 28.15.B 28.41.B.3 ex 28.46.B	Inorganic chemical products	10,332,220
17	29.42.A 29.42.C	Vegetable alkaloids	60,500
18	ex 29.25.I 29.44.A 29.44.B	Organic chemical products	10,450,000
21	32.09.A ex 32.09.D	Varnishes, dyes, pigments and similar preparations	36,780,753
22	33.06 34.01.B	Perfumery, toilet, cosmetic preparations	21,780,000
23	35.05	Dextrins and dextrin glues; soluble or roasted starches, starch glues	3,025,000
24	29.03.B.2 36.01 36.02 36.03 ex 36.04 36.05 36.06	Powder, pyrotechnic articles and matches	13,750,000
25	37.04.A 37.05.B	Photographic material	3,327,500

Inquiries: OTAR ext 462/471/472/473.

Cranes on self-propelled chassis: customs tariff modification. In the *State Gazette*, 28 January 1976, the Spanish authorities announced modifications to subheading 87.03.C of the Spanish customs tariff as follows:

Tariff no.	Description	Import duty
87.03.C	Cranes on self-propelled chassis:	
1	With a lifting capacity of 70 tons or more and a reach of 3.5 metres	28%
2	Other	50%
D	Other	50%

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 462/471/472/473.

Table service sets: luxury tax amendment. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 21 January 1976 published Decree 3616/1976 which exempted from luxury tax, table service sets, made of chinaware when the value is 270 pesetas per kg or less and when made of other materials the value of the set is 450 pesetas per kg or less.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 462/471/472/473.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section
Export Data Branch
Export Services and Promotions Division
Department of Trade
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

Synthetic latex: customs tariff modifications. In the *State Gazette*, 20 January 1976, the Spanish authorities anounced modifications to subheading 40.02.A of the Spanish customs tariff as follows:

Tariff no.	Description	Import duty
40.02.A	Synthetic latex:	
1	Of butadine-styrene copolymers containing calculated on the dry extract, less than 30% of styrene: of butadine-styrene copolymers with a solid content of 65% or more (cold polymerised, not carboxilade) of butadine-styrene copolymers with a content of 10% or more of vinyl-pyridine, of 2-polychloride butadine, of polybutadine.	free
2	Other	15%

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 462/471/472/473

Israel

Purchase tax amendments: The Israeli Authorities have issued the following amendments to the rate of purchase tax:

Purchase tax no.	Description	Rate of tax
1509	Parts and accessories for any type of vehicle:	
50–	of safety glass, excluding concave safety glass and mirrors	57.5%
90–*	other parts or appliances	
91– –	Brake – drum, disc, shoe, lining, hydraulic cylinder, pneumatic cell, cable ready for assembling; wheel without tyre, steering appliance including front suspension, lighting or signalling appliance, safety belt, mirror, windshield wiper including motor thereof, water sprayer for windshield cleaning, electric steam wiper and head rest, provided one of the following is fulfilled: (1) sold before 1 July 1976; (2) released before 1 April 1976; (3) imported in separate packaging, under separate import licences in respect of which separate invoices were given and released after 31 March 1976 and before 1 July 1976	25%
99– –	other	37.5%
1510	Reflectors	25%

* Section 90 does not include compression ignitition engines of a piston displacement exceeding 5,400cc which is taxed at the rate of 40%.

No further information available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 458/461.

Ghana

Debt repayments: A notice in *Trade and Industry* of 20 June 1975 (page 698) announced the arrangements for the release of foreign exchange for the payment of import bills due for payment between 1 and 15 October 1971. Telegraphic information has been received from the British High Commission in Accra that the Bank of Ghana have announced that foreign exchange will be released to the commercial banks on 5 January 1976 to cover bills due for payment in November and December 1971. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 3064/3338.

Chad and UDEAC

Customs tariff changes. As from 1 January 1976 full customs duties are imposed on all imports, regardless of origin, entering Chad and the member states of UDEAC (Central African Customs and Economic Union comprising Central African Republic, Congo Republic, Gabon and Cameroon). Tariff preferences to members of the European Economic Community will therefore no longer be granted.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 472/471/473/462.

Nigeria

Weights and measures. Notification was given in *Trade and Industry*, 28 November 1974 (page 477) of the new Weights and Measures Decree 1974. Legal Notice 98 of 1975 published in the Federal Republic of Nigeria *Gazette* 13 November 1975 revokes Schedules 6 and 7 of this Decree with effect from 21 August 1975 as follows:

Weights and Measures (Revocation) Order 1975

1. Schedules 6 and 7 to the Weights and Measures Decree 1974 are hereby revoked in relation to the trades and sectors of the economy specified in the first column of the Schedule hereto, as from the dates respectively specified in the second column of that Schedule.

2. This Order may be cited as the Weights and Measures (Revocation) Order 1975.

SCHEDULE

Trades and sectors of economy	Dates of revocation
1. Posts and telecommunications	1 April 1976
2. Works and housing	1 April 1976
3. Power and fuel	1 April 1976
4. Educational institutions	1 April 1976
5. Building and construction	1 April 1976
6. Consumer goods (all classes)	1 April 1976
7. Produce marketing	1 April 1976
8. Transport	1 December 1976
9. Agriculture	1 December 1977
10. Any other trade sector not mentioned above	1 December 1977

Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 3064/3338.

Mauritania

Import regulations. According to a recently published decree, the sanitary regulations governing the importation of live animals and animal products into Mauritania have been altered and clarified.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 472/462/471/473.

South Africa

Tariff application. Customs Tariff Application List 2/76, published in the South African *Government Gazette* 30 January 1976 contains

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Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Brazennose Street, Manchester M60 8AS

an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on:

1 rubber bands classifiable under tariff subheading 40.14.40
2 piping and tubing classifiable under tariff subheading 40.09.90
3 football bladders classifiable under tariff subheading 97.06.90, and
4 rubber bathing caps classifiable under tariff subheading 65.06.10

British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to CRE tel. 01-215 5274.

Aflatoxin in foodstuffs. Notice R.69 published in the South African *Government Gazette* of 16 January 1976, amends the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act 54 of 1972), with effect from 1 January 1976, by the introduction of the following regulation.

'No person shall sell any foodstuff which contains more than 10 ug/kg of aflatoxin, of which not more than 5ug/kg may be aflatoxin B, or which contains any other fungus produced toxins.'

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 471/472/473/462.

Pakistan

Drugs ordinance 1976. The Government of Pakistan repealed the Drugs (Generic Names) Act 1972 and the Drug Act of 1940 by Presidential Ordinance on 17 January 1976. There are two aspects to the new law: generic names and the control of quality and price of both imported and locally manufactured drugs. All compound drugs may now be registered under brand names. Single ingredient drugs retain their generic names. A new National Formulary, also specifying which drugs may be imported, is to be compiled and published.

The control of drugs is to be administered by a Central Licensing Board which will licence the manufacture of drugs and a Registration Board which will register imported and locally manufactured drugs. Severe penalties of imprisonment and fines are laid down for the manufacture, retail or sale of unlicensed drugs. In addition, the ordinance has constituted federal committees for drugs evaluation, pharmacopoeia and advertising, special 'drug courts'. provincial quality control boards, inspectors and testing laboratories. The Federal Government has taken powers to fix the maximum prices and profits on drugs.

Inquiries: IPCD 01-405 8721 ext. 3243.

Thailand

Import duties. The Thai Minister of Finance has issued Notification No. 6/1975 reducing import duties on goods covered by BTN heading 89.01.

The new rate of duty is as follows:

Heading no.	Classification	Ad valorem per cent	Specific	
			Unit	Per unit Baht
89.01	c. Rubber life rafts	2.5	—	—

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 401/468/469.

Australia

Extension of motor vehicle import quotas. Import quotas on passenger motor vehicles and light commercial vehicles have been extended for a further two months at existing levels pending Government consideration of the Industries Assistance Commission's report of 31 October 1975 on Motor Vehicles – Import Restrictions. This report included a recommendation that import restrictions on passenger motor vehicles be continued until 31 December 1976 at a level of 90,000 vehicles per annum. Under the previous arrangements, import quotas on motor vehicles were to be continued only until the end of January 1976.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 468/469/401.

Sunglasses, sunglass frames and ophthalmic spectacle frames: quantitative import restrictions continue. Quantitative restrictions will be continued from 1 March 1976 on imports of sunglasses, sunglass frames and ophthalmic spectacle frames pending receipt and consideration of an Industries Assistance Commission report on these goods.

The Minister for Industry and Commerce said that in accordance with the proposal made in the report of the Temporary Assistance Authority in February 1975, basic quotas of eligible applicants would be increased by 7 per cent. This meant that on an annual basis total quotas for frames would be 1,391,000 and for sunglasses 1,936,000. An initial allocation of 25 per cent of these quantities would be made, that is 347,750 frames and 484,000 sunglasses.

To permit a smooth transition from one quota year to the next, it had also been decided that importers would be permitted to anticipate 10 per cent of their individual interim quota allocation from 1 January 1976.

Since preapration of the Temporary Assistance Authority report, Polarizers (Australia) Pty. Ltd. has ceased production. Firms which obtained supplies from Polarizers during 1973-74 are to be allowed an increase in their quota, initially of up to a further 175,000 frames, allocated on an equitable basis related to the level of such purchases. Those in a position to avail themselves of part of this special quota should apply to the Department of Industry and Commerce, indicating the quantities sought and producing evidence of quantities received from Polarizers in the year ended 30 June 1974.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 468/469/401.

Carpet imports: no tariff quotas on tufted and axminster. The Minister for Industry and Commerce has announced that tariff

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G. INOUYE, Managing Director
RAYDEN (JAPAN) LTD, Shokin Building, 11-12, 8-chome, Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan. Tel: 571-8023/5. Telex: J26847 (Raydenco).
Cables: Raydenco, TOKYO

quotas will not be introduced on imports of tufted and axminster piece goods at this time.

The Textile Authority's report of 7 February 1975 recommended that tariff quotas be introduced on these piece goods if imports in a three monthly period exceeded certain specified 'trigger points'. It was also recommended that tufted kitchen carpeting be excluded from the trigger point levels. Preliminary figures received from the Bureau of Statistics suggested that import clearances in the three months ended 30 November 1975 exceeded the trigger point level of 1.25 million square metres. However, over recent months there have been changes in the description of what constituted tufted kitchen carpeting and when allowance was made for quantities of such carpeting which arrived in that period and which conformed to the previous definition, import clearances were lower than the trigger point level concerned.

The Minister said he was making this announcement as there was interest among importers and manufacturers as to whether the tariff quota system had been activated and it was desirable to avoid any misunderstanding of the position should the official published statistics ultimately show that import clearances in the three months to November 1975 were in excess of the trigger point. A close watch will be kept on future imports of these carpets and fresh assessments will be made on the basis of official trade figures to the end of December 1975 and for January and February 1976 as necessary. If the tariff quota system is to be activated a statement announcing this will be made so that there is no confusion.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 468/469/401.

Apparel and footwear: interim allocation of tariff quotas. The Minister for Industry and Commerce has announced that an interim allocation of tariff quotas would be made for those items of apparel on which tariff quotas were introduced as from 1 March 1975.

A review is being undertaken of the levels of tariff quotas to apply for 1976 on the following products:

Men's, youths' and boys' suits, coats and shorts;
Women's, girls' children's and infants' outergarments;
All knitted and women's, girls' and infants' woven dressing gowns;
Swimwear;
Babies' napkins.

As it will not be feasible to take decisions immediately on the findings of the review to cover the 1976 tariff quota year, the Minister said that, pending these decisions, an interim allocation of quotas would now be made equivalent to 50 per cent of quotas established in the current quota year which related to import performance in the base period.

The Minister also said a review was to be undertaken of the situation in regard to other apparel items including:

Knitted tops;
Knitted and woven dresses;
Woven coats, raincoats and jackets for women, girls and infants;
Woven blouses for women, girls and infants;
Woven and knitted trousers and jeans for men and boys;
Woven nightwear for women, girls and infants;
Knitted nightwear;
Knitted underwear;
Knitted tracksuits, playsuits and romper suits;
Woven dressing gowns for men and boys.

In the light of the changed circumstances since the last inquiry by the Textiles Authority the Government is looking at the question of a further inquiry by that Authority on these products. Interested parties are requested to submit to the Secretary, Department of Industry and Commerce, as soon as possible, information in relation to these products which they wish to have taken into account in the Government's review.

In regard to footwear, the Minister said a further allocation would be made of import quotas for footwear to cover the residual allocation for the year ending 31 October 1976 for those items of footwear which are currently under import licensing controls. He expected that early consideration would be given to recommendations made by the Industries Assistance Commission in its interim report of 31 October 1975 for the extension of the import licensing controls to sandboots and sandshoes and parts of footwear.

The Bureau of Customs in Australia will notify importers of their quota allocations as soon as possible.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 468/469/401.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section,
Export Data Branch
Export Services and Promotions Division
Department of Trade
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

New Zealand

Import deposit scheme. The New Zealand Prime Minister announced on 26 January the introduction of a limited import deposit scheme to come into force on 2 February. The amount of deposit is to be one-third of current domestic value of goods and is to be paid on the arrival of the goods in New Zealand. This deposit will be held in a special account at the Reserve Bank for six months, then refunded without interest. Trading banks will be instructed to ensure that additional lending is not provided to finance the deposits. The cost of financing the deposit will not be recoverable for the purposes of price control. The scheme is to operate for one year and will be kept under review in the light of the need for import restraint. There is provision for extending the scheme 'if evidence of speculative ordering or excessive importing of other goods becomes apparent'.

The following is a list of the items subject to the import deposit scheme with their NZ tariff numbers:

	Tariff no.
Wines and spirits	22.05/06/07/09
Photographic plates and film (excluding X-ray)	37.01/02/03
Domestic tableware, statuettes and other ornaments made from ceramics, drinking glasses and other domestic glassware	69.11/12/13, 70.13.002, 70.13.009
Pearls, precious and semi-precious stones, precious metals and articles of jewellery	All of Chapter 71
Marine outboard motors	84.06.122/123/124/126
Lifting, handling, loading and unloading and earth moving machinery	84.22/23
Sewing machines	84.41.001/009
Typewriters, calculating machines, computers, office machines and parts	84.51/52/53/54/55
Tractors	87.01
Photographic cameras, photocopying and thermo-copying apparatus	90.07, 90.10.011/019/021/029
Clocks, watches and parts	All of Chapter 91
Antiques over 100 years old	99.06.00

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 401/468/469.

Government Publications in the West
from
Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Wine Street, Bristol, BS1 2BQ

Customs tariff amendments. The New Zealand Government has issued Customs Tariff (Tube and Pipe Fittings) Amendment Order 1975, which came into force on 21 November 1975 amending the following tariff items: 73.20.001, 73.20.011, 73.20.021, 73.20.022, 73.20.023, 73.20.029, 73.20.039, 73.20.041, 73.20.049, 73.20.051, 73.20.059, 73.20.069 which now read as follows:

No.	Description	Unit	Year	Rates of duty effective on and after 1 July: Normal tariff	Rates of duty effective on and after 1 July: British preferential	Other preferential rates of duty
CHAPTER 73						
Iron and steel and articles thereof						
73.20	Tube and pipe fittings (for example, joints, elbows, unions and flanges), of iron or steel:					
	Screwed:					
73.20.002	As may be approved by the Minister and under such conditions as he may prescribe	kg	1957	Free†	Free†	
73.20.009	Other	kg	1975	30%	30%	Aul 20% Can 20% CPC 20%
	Unscrewed:					
	Cast iron:					
73.20.012	As may be approved by the Minister and under such conditions as he may prescribe	kg	1975	Free†	Free†	
73.20.019	Other	kg	1975	20%	20%	Aul 10% Can 10% CPC 10%
	Stainless steel:					
	Of a nominal internal diameter:					
	Not exceeding 102mm:					
73.20.024	As may be approved by the Minister and under such conditions as he may prescribe	kg	1975	Free†	Free†	
73.20.028	Other	kg	1975	20%	20%	Aul 10% Can 10% CPC 10%
	Exceeding 102mm:					
73.20.031	As may be determined by the Minister	kg	1975	20%*	20%*	Aul 10%* Can 10%* CPC 10%*
73.20.038	Other	kg	1975	5%	5%	Aul Free Can Free CPC Free
73.20.048	Other kinds	kg	1975	5%	5%	Aul Free Can Free CPC Free
	Other:					
73.20.052	As may be determined by the Minister	kg	1975	20%*	20%*	Aul 10%* Can 10%* CPC 10%*
73.20.058	Other	kg	1975	5%	5%	Aul Free Can Free CPC Free

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* Or such lower rate of duty as the Minister may in any case direct.
† Or such higher rate of duty as the Minister may in any case decide.

Aul = Australia
Can = Canada
CPC = Commonwealth Preference Countries

Inquiries: OTAR Ext 401/468/469.

Registered trade marks

The lists of tariff, customs and import regulation changes in overseas countries published in this section of *Trade and Industry* sometimes contain words which are registered trade marks in the United Kingdom. So far as is practicable, all lists of goods are checked before publication from this point of view. Items which fall into this category are preceded by the letters rtm. Readers should note that this prefix signifies that the words are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom but that in the present context are assumed to refer generally to products of the descriptions stated in brackets. While every attempt will be made to ensure that the scrutiny is complete, the lists may contain other words which are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom or in other countries but which it has not been possible to identify.

Customs tariff amendments. The New Zealand Government has issued Customs Tariff (Composite) Amendment Order (No. 5) 1975, which came into force on 21 November, 1975, amending the following tariff items: 39.01.031, 39.01.039, 39.02.111, 84,30,012, 84.30.013, 84.30.014, 84.59.139 which now read as follows:

No.	Description	Unit	Year	Rates of duty effective on and after 1 July: Normal tariff	Rates of duty effective on and after 1 July: British preferential	Other preferential rates of duty
CHAPTER 39						
Artificial resins and plastic materials, cellulose esters and ethers; articles thereof						
39.01	Condensation, polycondensation and polyaddition products, whether or not modified or polymerised, and whether or not linear (for example, phenoplasts, aminoplasts, alkyds, polyallyl esters and other unsaturated polyesters, silicones):					
	Monofil, rods and sticks, profile shapes, seamless tubes:					
	Of glass fibre agglomerated with plastic material and suited for use in making fishing rods:					
39.01.032	Monofil, rods and sticks, profile shapes	kg	1975	Free	Free	Aul Free
39.01.038	Other	kg	1975	30%	30%	Aul Free
39.02	Polymerisation and copolymerisation products (for example, polyethylene, polytetrahaloethylenes, polyisobutylene, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl chloroacetate and other polyvinyl derivatives, polyacrylic and polymethacrylic derivatives, coumarone-indene resins):					
	Plates, sheets, strip, film and foil:					
	Tape:					
	Other kinds:					
	Unprinted and not embossed or otherwise surface-worked:					
39.02.111	Polytetrafluoroethylene tape, unsintered	kg	1975	25%	25%	Aul Free
CHAPTER 84						
Boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof						
84.30	Machinery, not falling within any other heading of this Chapter, of a kind used in the following food or drink industries: bakery, confectionery, chocolate manufacture, macaroni, ravioli or similar cereal food manufacture, the preparation of meat, fish, fruit or vegetables (including mincing or slicing machines), sugar manufacture or brewing:					
	Other kinds:					
	Confectionery (including chocolate confectionery) making					
84.30.002	As may be determined by the Minister	kg	1975	25%*	25%*	Aul 15%* Can 17½%* DC 15%* CPC 17½%*
84.30.003	Other	kg	1975	5%	5%	Aul Free Can Free DC Free CPC Free
	Meat and fish preparing:					
84.30.004	As may be determined by the Minister	kg	1975	25%*	25%*	Aul 15%* Can 17½%* DC 15%* CPC 17½%*
84.30.005	Other	kg	1975	5%	5%	Aul Free Can Free DC Free CPC Free
	Fruit and vegetable preparing:					
84.30.006	As may be determined by the Minister	kg	1975	25%*	25%*	Aul 15%* Can 17½%* DC 15%* CPC 17½%*
84.30.007	Other	kg	1975	5%	5%	Aul Free Can Free DC Free CPC Free

No.	Description	Unit	Rates of duty effective on and after 1 July Year	 Normal tariff	 British preferential	Other preferential rates of duty
84.59	Machines and mechanical appliances, having individual functions, not falling within any other heading of this Chapter:					
84.59.138	Vibratory feeders	..	1975	20%	20%	Aul 10% Can 10% CPC 10%
84.59.149	Other	..	1975	54%	33%	Aul 25%
			1976	51%	37%	Can 35%
			1977	45%	45%	CPC 35%

* Or such lower rate of duty as the Minister may in any case direct.

Aul = Australia
Can = Canada
CPC = Commonwealth Preference Countries
DC = Developing Countries

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 401/468/469.

United States

Federal Trade Commission Improvement Act (the Magnusson-Moss Warranty Act). *Trade and Industry* of 8 August 1975 and 19 September 1975 gave details of hearings on Federal Trade Commission proposals for rules to implement the Federal Trade Commission Improvement Act. The FTC has now published the final version of three rules for:

1. the disclosure of written warranty terms
2. the pre-sale availability of such warranties
3. the minimum requirements for informal dispute settlement mechanisms

The first two rules take effect from 1 January 1977, and the third rule becomes effective on 4 July 1976. Full details of the rules, which were published in the *Federal Register* of 31 December 1975, are available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 455/456/457.

Federal Trade Commission proposals to incorporate case law principles into Trade Regulation rules. The US Federal Trade Commission intends to consider, and if appropriate, promulgate into Trade Regulation rules various aspects of consumer protection law which have developed in the course of deciding individual cases. The following aspects have been tentatively designated for codification:

Deceptive Endorsements and Testimonials, including Accreditation and Certification
Deceptive Demonstrations
Bait and Switch Practices
Deceptive Price Advertising, including use of the words 'Free' and 'Special Offer'
Deceptive Trade Status and Affiliation Advertising
Deceptive Employment Opportunities Advertising
Household Furniture Advertising
Jewelry and Watches Advertising
Debt Collection Practices
Sale of Used and Imperfect Items as New, Perfect Items
Referral Sales
Pyramid Sales
Games and Contest Promotions
Unfair Retention of Credit Balances

The FTC has invited comments on the proposals (eg are the areas chosen sufficient, how should proposals be drafted, what would be the likely effect of the proposals) which should be made by 1 April 1976 to Assistant Director for Compliance, Bureau of Consumer Protection FTC Washington DC 20580.

Further details are available. Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5397.

Gas cylinders. The US Department of Transportation has issued proposed new regulations to come into effect on 1 May 1976 which would permit entry of gas cylinders manufactured, tested and inspected outside the United States. Comments from interested persons must be lodged with the Department of Transportation, Washington by 15 March 1976 to ensure consideration. Inquiries: CRE 5629.

Services to exporters

The following Government offices provide services for UK exporters:

Headquarters

Export Services and Promotions Division

Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757. Telex 886143 DTI EXPORT LDN

Regional

Scotland

Scottish Economic Planning Department
Industrial Development Division
314 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G3 8XF
Tel. 041-248 2855. Telex 77583 SEPD GLASGOW

Inverness District Office

Caledonia House, 63/67 Academy Street, Inverness IV1 1LU
Tel. (0463) 30867

Wales

Welsh Office

Industry Department
Government Buildings, Gabalfa, Cardiff CF4 4YL
Tel. (0222) 62131. Telex 49267 INDUSTRY CARDIF

Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Office

Priestley House, 1 Park Row, Leeds LS1 5LF
Tel. (0532) 443171. Telex 557925/6 DTI LEEDS

Northern Regional Office

Wellbar House, Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4TR
Tel. (0632) 27575. Telex 53178 DTI NTYNE

Cumbria District Office

Town Hall, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 9NP
Tel. (090-082) 3498/9. Telex 64173 DTI COCKERMOUTH

North-Western Regional Office

Sunley Building, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BA
Tel. 061-236 2171. Telex 667104 DTI MCHR

West-Midlands Regional Office

Ladywood House, Stephenson Street, Birmingham B2 4DT
Tel. 021-632 4111. Telex 337021 DTI BHAM

East-Midlands Regional Office

Cranbrook House, 47 Cranbrook Street, Nottingham NG1 1ES
Tel. (0602) 46121. Telex 37143 DTI NOTTM

South-Western Regional Office

The Pithay, Bristol BS1 2PB
Tel. (0272) 291071. Telex 44214 DTI BRISTOL

Northern Ireland Department of Commerce

Chichester House, 64 Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4JX
Tel. (0232) 34488. Telex 747025 GOVNI BELFAST

Belize

Customs tariff. Belize continues to operate a tariff containing preferential rates for imported goods of Commonwealth origin. The Government intends to adopt the single-column Common External Tariff on 1 April 1976.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 7312/456/457.

Panama

Duty changes and amendments: The Panamanian Government announced in the *Official Gazette* no. 17,998, 31 December 1975, that various amendments were to be made to the Panamanian tariff effective from 1 January 1976.

The changes are basically as follows:

1 A list of goods the duty on which has been reduced to zero.
2 A heading added to the tariff:
    714-02-08 Rechargeable electronic calculators duty free.
3 A heading eliminated from the tariff:
    721-04-03 Radio receivers n.e.s., of an fob price of from 60 to 80 balboas.
4 Some headings have been modified.

In addition the surtax of 7 per cent *ad valorem* fob has been increased to 7.50 per cent. Goods which attracted the reduced rate are unaffected and remain at 3.50 per cent.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 476/474.

Brazil

Economic measures: President Geisel of Brazil has signed a decree defining the terms and conditions for the new tariff exemptions and reductions which he was empowered to lay down by decree-law 1.428, of 2 December 1975. Brief details of the decree follow. Any further information will be published as soon as it is received.

Economic ministers are now responsible for recommending to the President the granting of exemptions of import duty and Manufactured Goods Tax (IPI) for industrial projects approved by the following bodies:

CDI	Conselho de Desenvolvimento Industrial.
SUDENE	Superintendência de Desenvolvimento do Nordeste
SUDAM	Superintendência de Desenvolvimento da Amazonia
SUDEPE	Superintendência de Desenvolvimento de Pesca
GEIMI	Grupo Executivo da Indústria da Mineração

The decree also stipulates the maximum percentage rates of reduction to be granted by the above bodies in industrial projects not having presidential approval.

1 A reduction of 50 per cent on equipment, machinery, instruments accessories and tools, not having a national similar, destined for industrial projects in the sectors approved by the CDI.

2 A reduction of 80 per cent covered by item 1 and destined specifically for any of the following sectors:

Production of machinery and equipment and their components.
Agricultural, road and forestry resource exploitation equipment and machinery.
Production of components for the electric, electronic and mechanical industries.
Production of railway equipment.
Production of vehicles for public transport.
Naval and aeronautical production.
Steel and primary metallurgy for the non-ferrous metal industries.
Production of cement and refractory materials.
Production of paper and cellulose.
Production of fertilisers and the like and their raw materials.
Production of chemical ingredients and basic pharmaceuticals.
Petrochemical industry.
Mining industry.
Industries and activities connected with the national security, as defined by the National Security Council.

The CPA is authorised to grant reductions in import duty of up to 50 per cent only in order to meet the provisions of decree-law 62.899, of 25 July 1968.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 476/474.

Prior approval. The Brazilian authorities now require prior approval for the import of the following:

Steel. Resolution 99 of the Conselho Nacional do Comercio Exterior – CONCEX – (the National Council for Foreign Trade), published in the *Diario Oficial*, 21 October 1975, laid down that imports of steel products under the following headings will be subject to the prior approval of the Conselho de Nao-Ferrosos e de Siderurgia – CONSIDER – (the Council for Non-Ferrous Metals and Steel).

The headings affected are:

73.02.00.00
73.06.00.00-73.21.00.00
73.24.00.00
73.26.00.00
73.32.00.00
73.35.00.00
73.40.01.00-73.40.03.00

This requirement does not affect the following transactions:

1 Drawback operations authorised by CACEX
2 Extensions of validity for Guias de Importacao issued during the validity of CONCEX Resolution 98, with the approval of CONSIDER
3 Goods included in the lists of goods to be imported in accord with agreements of local industry participation registered by CACEX in conformity with Decree 61.574
4 Goods imported into the Manaus Free Zone for local consumption. If goods are transferred to other parts of the national territory they become liable to approval by CONSIDER

In the administrative process priority shall be given to the following imports:

1 Those being in the form of a pool for Brazilian importers and having foreign finance
2 From markets offering reciprocal trade for Brazilian exports and/or conditions for special operations
3 Uncoated laminated sheet, coated sheet and steel profiles imported by Companhia Siderurgica Paulista – COSIPA, Companhia Siderurgica Nacional – CSN, and Usinas Siderurgica de Minas Gerais SA – USIMINAS

This regulation will remain in force until 31 December 1976.

Computers. CONCEX Resolution 104, published in the *Diario Oficial*, 3 December 1975, made the issue of Guias de Importacao for computers and ancillaries, of tariff headings 84.53.00.00 and 84.55.11.00, dependent on the prior approval of the Commissao de Co-ordenacao das Atividades de Processamento Eletronico – CAPRE.

Extensions of validity of previously issued Guias are also subject to this requirement.

The requirement does not apply to the following transactions:

1 Drawback operations authorised by CACEX
2 Used equipment brought into Brazil for reconditioning and re-export

This regulation is valid until 31 December 1976.

Non-ferrous metals. CONCEX Resolution 105, of 3 December 1975, made the issue of Guias de Importacao for certain non-ferrous metals subject to the prior approval of CONSIDER. The tariff headings affected are:

74.01-74.05
75.01-75.03
76.01-76.04
77.01-77.04
78.01-78.05
79.01-79.04

Requests for extensions of validity for Guias issued before this requirement shall also be subject to it.

The following transactions shall not be subject to prior approval:

1 Drawback operations authorised by CACEX
2 Goods included in the lists of goods to be imported under the agreements for local industry participation
3 Goods imported into the Manaus Free Zone for local consumption. Subsequent transfer to other parts of the national territory shall render the goods liable to this requirement

This requirement will be valid until 31 December 1976.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 476/474.

Fuels and lubricants: sole tax rates. Declaratory Act CST 101 published in the *Diario Oficial*, 31 October 1975, laid down new rates of sole tax – Imposto Unico sobre Lubrificantes e Combustiveis Liquidos e Gasosos. The new rates came into force on 11 October 1975.

Details of the new rates are available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 476/474.

Chile

National Health Service: The Chilean National Health Service (Servicio Nacional de Salud) has recently issued a circular setting out its presentation requirements for goods which it purchases under tender call and other arrangements. The paper covers such items as labelling, production and expiry dates for products supplied, use of generic and 'fantasy' names, and quality control certificates required to accompany samples and bulk supplies.

A copy of the circular (in Spanish) is available in OTAR.

Inquiries: OTAR. ext. 474/476.

CRE tel. Direct dialling **OTAR** telephone 01-248 5757
Extensions to **OTAR** numbers are given at the end of each notice

European Community News

James Callaghan calls for major attack on unemployment by community

In a speech to the Woolwich annual dinner on 30 January, James Callaghan said that the commission and the community should make a major attack on the problem of unemployment one of its major priorities.

In doing so, he said, it would need to bring both employers and trade unions fully and effectively into consultation so that practical plans could be produced and not 'theoretical blueprints'.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs also said that no one country could solve the problem of unemployment on its own. Travelling abroad, he had found widespread fears throughout Europe, in Germany and France among other countries, that a high level of unemployment may persist long after economic recovery had begun. He had heard fears that, because of increased productivity, workers would not be reabsorbed into production as fast as on previous occasions.

'Yet no single country is pressing the European community hard enough on this vital issue. The commission in Brussels should devote all its energies to the problem of structural unemployment and in particular should focus on making an assessment of what the likely levels of unemployment will be over the next five years: they should analyse the reasons for this; and they should put forward proposals that will enable the members of the community to work together to overcome the evils of unemployment in all the member countries.'

This, he went on, would mean a much more fundamental approach than the existing social and regional funds. These were of some help, but were set up to deal with a problem quite unlike the total situation facing Europe today.

It was not enough for foreign ministers to make speeches to each other. The commission should make a deep economic examination of the problem and the measures that were necessary.

Direct elections: the 'white green Paper'

Speaking about the Government's proposed white paper on direct elections to the European assembly, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, James Callaghan, described it as 'a bit of a hybrid beast'.

Answering questions in the Commons on 28 January, he explained that he was not sure whether it would be a white or green paper. Current plans provided for a two-part document. The first part would cover the decisions which had to be reached at community level, such as the total number of members of the assembly and their distribution among member states, and it 'would be white'. But the second part would identify questions about the electoral arrangements in this country, and would be of a consultative nature.

Mr. Callaghan emphasised that 'the basis of the direct elections will be the existing powers of the European assembly, no more and no less.' Any change in these powers would require the consent of the member states. The 'white green paper' would, he said, focus on the issues of mechanics and the decisions that would be required in relation to the elections.

On the Tindemans report, Mr. Callaghan said he welcomed the realistic nature of the broad approach of building on the community as it now existed. It would provide a useful stimulus to discussion about the development of the community in the next few years. He expected that the report would come up for discussion by the heads of government at the next European council at the beginning of April.

He also made it clear that he personally did not believe that 'the two-tier system' (ie the proposal that some member states should progress faster in certain fields than others) would be to the benefit of the community or this country.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 437, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

Admission of securities to stock exchange quotation

Proposals for a directive (reference R/160/76) dealing with the co-ordination of conditions for the admission of securities to official stock exchange quotations have been issued by the EEC commission.

While the draft directive specifies a basic list of conditions which are to be observed in all member states, provision is also made for each member state to retain the right to lay down additional or more rigorous conditions. The arrangements would apply to all main and regional stock exchanges and include admission to quotation of national or foreign securities (but not national government securities).

Each member state will be required to nominate a competent authority which will be charged with ensuring compliance with the directive.

The proposals have been submitted for comment to the European assembly and to the economic and social committee, with a request that each should reply by September this year.

Mexican exhibition for EEC countries

The Mexican Foreign Trade Institute has announced a commercial and industrial exhibition for EEC countries, to be held in the Ahoy Building, Rotterdam, from 5 to 11 April.

Some 200 firms will participate in a display of goods capable of being exported to the EEC. The display area will cover 8,000m^2. There will also be a seminar on investment possibilities, and a related exhibition of goods currently being imported into Mexico, but capable of economic local manufacture.

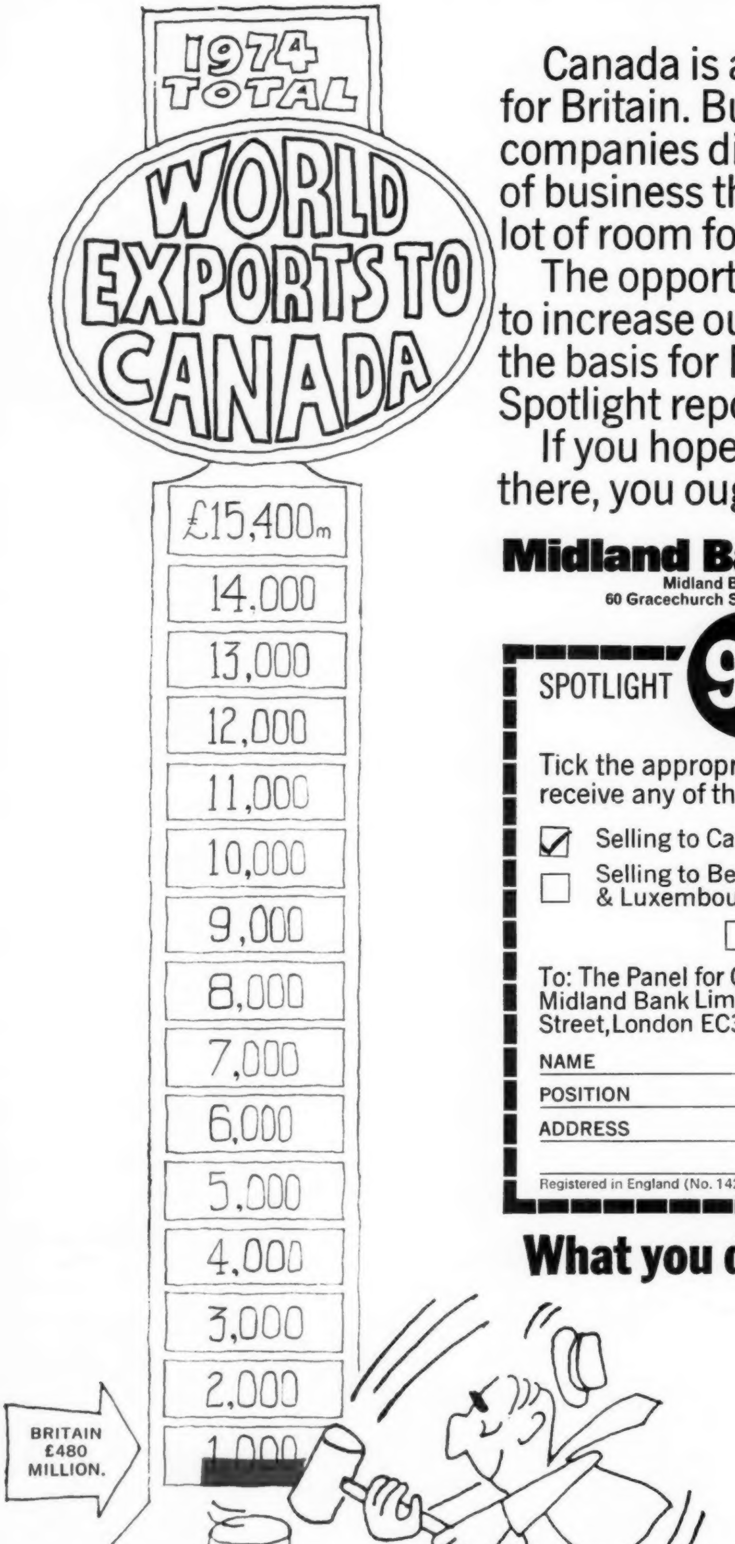
A simultaneous 'Mexican Week' will feature artistic, cultural and culinary displays.

Further details can be obtained from the Commercial Counsellor, Mexican Embassy, 61 Trafalgar Square, London SW1.

Customs notices of interest to exporters

The following Public Notices issued by HM Customs and Excise relate to various aspects of export procedure. Copies of these Notices may be obtained from the local Officer of Customs and Excise, whose address appears in the telephone directory and to whom all inquiries should be addressed, or from the Secretary, HM Customs and Excise, 39-41 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE.

7	Drawback on mixed or blended beers when exported or deposited in bonded warehouse.
17 (May 1973)	Arrangements for preferential trade between the Channel Islands and the United Kingdom.
49	Temporary importations · international co-operation.
104	Temporary importations and exportations under ATA and ECS Carnets.
112	Authorised hours for Customs work at ports, airports and in long rooms and charges for attendance given at the request of merchants.
112A	Charges for attendance given at private premises at the request of merchants.
118	Samples imported for promoting export trade.
132A	Sugar: cessation of Import Duties and Imposition of Levies under the Common Agricultural Policy of the EEC and the Sugar Board Charge.
172	Hydrocarbon Oils: drawback of duty.
207	Re-imported goods: relief from Customs duty and Value Added Tax.
210	Temporary importation of films and similar goods for copying, printing, etc., to fulfil export orders.
221	Process Inwards Relief and Pre-financing of export refunds on products for process.
224	The examination of bottled beer, exported on drawback, at the premises of a licensed brewer for sale, or beer dealer, as an alternative to examination on the quay.
241	European Economic Community: Compensatory Levy.
275	Documentation of Exports for Statistical Purposes.
276	Customs Entry forms in the C273 Series: Guidance on their completion.
290	Export of personal and household effects.
291	Claims for drawback on goods exported where there has been a variation in the duty rate.
300	Export reliefs scheduling scheme.
703	VAT – Exports. (Revised November 1973)
704	VAT – Retail Export Schemes. (Revised November 1973)
705	VAT – Tax free sales of motor vehicles to tourists, etc.
750 and Supplement	Community transit – this describes the system as a whole.
750A	List of Community Transit Offices.
750B	Community transit – Extension to cover Austria and Switzerland.
751 and Supplement	Notes on completing Community transit forms T1, T2 and T3 and Control Copy T forms.
751A	Notes on completing Community transit movement certificates.
752	Free circulation of goods in the European Community.
753	Community transit – the simplified procedure for goods carried by rail.
754	Community transit – Intra-Community treatment of the catches of fishing vessels registered in Member States.
755	Community transit – special control procedures.
756	Instructions on the use of loading lists as the descriptive part of Community transit forms T1, T2 and T3.
757	Community transit – Pre-authenticated movement certificate Form T3I.
774	Hydrocarbon Oils Customs Duties: Additions of *Ad Valorem* Protective Element.
800	EEC Common Agricultural Policy: Customs procedures in respect of export refunds and export licences.
810	EEC Preferences – Free Trade Agreement between the EEC and the EFTA countries.
810A	EEC Preferences – EFTA Countries. Simplification of the documentation system described in Notice 810. Introduction of universal form of movement certificate EUR 1.
811	EEC Preferences – Greece.
812	EEC Preferences – Turkey.
813, 813B	EEC Preferences – Israel.
817	EEC Preferences – Tunisia
818	EEC Preferences – Egypt.
819	EEC Preferences – Cyprus.
821	EEC Preferences – simplified procedure for sending evidence to EEC customers about the origin of goods.
830	Arrangements between Denmark and United Kingdom.


1974 TOTAL
WORLD EXPORTS TO CANADA
£15,400m
14,000
13,000
12,000
11,000
10,000
9,000
8,000
7,000
6,000
5,000
4,000
3,000
2,000
1,000
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What you don't know can hurt you.

UK receives first 1976 allocation from Regional Fund

A further £3 million towards the cost of 47 projects in the UK has been allocated from the EEC Regional Development Fund. The announcement, which was made by the European commission on 3 February, brings the total allocated to the UK since the inception of the fund to £38.9 million. It is the first allocation from the fund of the UK's 1976 share of about £58 million. The £3 million is allocated as follows:

	Projects	Fund aid
		£
England	16	667,924
Northern Ireland	21	1,674,627
Scotland	8	596,699
Wales	2	61,134
	47	3,000,384

The commission has now approved applications by the Department of Industry in respect of National Regional Aids to a number of industrial projects in England (see list right).

The amount of fund aid committed to these projects is £668,000. The money will not be passed on to the individual firms concerned but will be retained by the Government. These receipts will be used by the Government to go ahead with a greater total of regional investment than would otherwise have been possible.

In the first allocation of aid in 1976, the commission has agreed that member states may draw up to 21.7 million units of account (about £9 million) from the fund in respect of 63 projects in less prosperous regions of the community.

The fund

The fund amounts to £1,300 million units of account (about £540 million) and operates by giving assistance to member governments towards the cost of specific investment projects in industry and infrastructure located in the less favoured areas of the community.

In the UK these are Northern Ireland, the Special Development and Development Areas and the Intermediate Areas. The fund will run for three years from 1 January 1975 and the commission may commit 300 mua (£125 million) in 1975 and 500 mua (£218 million) in both 1976 and 1977.

The UK share

Each member state may claim up to its share of the fund in respect of projects which qualify under the fund regulation. The UK has the second largest share (28 per cent) after Italy (40 per cent). This amounts to £150 million over the three years and £58 million in 1976. It is also possible for a member state to be allocated more than its share in any year if other member states do not submit sufficient applications.

The commission has approved enough UK projects to take up more than the UK's 1975 share of the fund (£35 million).

The commission's approval of projects means that they will set aside part of the fund for those particular projects. Money will actually be received by the UK when the national expenditure (regional aids to industrial projects: public authority expenditure on infrastructure projects) has been partly or wholly made. Applications for payment of part of the fund contribution towards projects approved by the commission in 1975 are now being made.

The Department of Commerce (Northern Ireland) are responsible for the only infrastructure projects approved and questions should be referred to them.

Further applications are under consideration and announcements will be made during the year as decisions are taken.

North west region

ERDF AID – £265,648

Location	Company	Sector
Runcorn	Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.	Chlorine production

Northern region

PROJECTS – 2 ERDF AID – £13,095

Location	Company	Sector
Hartlepool	RHM Foods Ltd.	Food production
Workington	Crystallised Confections (Tip Top) Ltd.	Soft drink production

South west region

ERDF AID – £3,867

Location	Company	Sector
Tavistock	Brewster Precision Instruments Ltd.	Soldering equipment manufacturing

East midlands region

PROJECTS – 5 ERDF AID – £48,620

Location	Company	Sector
Heanor Gate	Alida Reclaimers Ltd.	Plastics products
Heanor Gate	Colborn Group Ltd.	Food manufacturing
Somercotes	Montfort (Somercotes) Ltd.	Clothing manufacturing
Sutton in Ashfield	Faun Ltd.	Garment industry
Sutton in Ashfield	United Lubricants Ltd.	Oil and grease production

Yorkshire and Humberside region

PROJECTS – 7 ERDF AID – £336,694

Location	Company	Sector
Bingley, Yorks	Ellison Circlips Ltd.	Circlips manufacturing
Bradford	Doulton Glass Industries Ltd.	Glass processing
Huddersfield	Hirst Buckley Ltd.	Printing
Leeds	Selsons (Leeds) Ltd.	Mining machinery manufacturing
Todmorden, Lancs	Simon-Warman Ltd.	Iron casting manufacturing
Wakefield (2 projects)	E. Green and Son Ltd.	Heat transfer equipment

Projects in Scotland, Wales and N. Ireland

Projects in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland which will receive a fund contribution are as follows:

Scotland

TOTAL AID (all projects) – £596,699

Industrial projects (global application)

Location	Project
Kirkintilloch	Daniel Montgomery and Son Ltd. (bottle closure manufacturers)
East Kilbride	F. P. Castings Ltd. (sports goods)
Glasgow	Flexible Ducting Ltd. (plastic processing)
Glasgow	Soleprint
Wishaw	Central Shearlines Ltd. (iron and steel)
Shotts	Model Toys Ltd.
Clydebank	J. B. E. Offshore Ltd.
East Kilbride	McDonald Electric Ltd.

Wales

TOTAL AID – £61,134

Industrial projects (global application)

Location	Project
Clwyd – Wrexham	Accumatic Engineering Ltd. (metal filter manufacturers)
Powys – Llanidloes	BSK (Aluminium) Ltd.

Northern Ireland

TOTAL AID – £1,674,627

Industrial projects (global application)

Location	Project
Banbridge	Belmont House Hotel
Bangor	Spence Bryson and Co. Ltd. (tufted carpets)
Ballinamallard	Brulon Guest House
Ballymena	Mr. J. Lee (hotels and catering)
Belfast	Sterlings Hotel
Belfast	Hotel Drumkeen Ltd.
Belfast	Olympia Business Machines
Bellanaleck	Lakeland Hotel
Craigavon	Andus Electronics
Coleraine	Lodge Hotel
Dungannon	Inn-on-the-Park
Eglinton	Glen House Hotel
Kesh	Lough Erne Hotel Ltd.
Lisburn	Simms Steel Industries
Londonderry	Hotel Everglades Ltd.
Londonderry	LEC Refrigeration (N.I.) Ltd.
Londonderry	Arntz Belting Co. Ltd.
Newcastle	Slieve Donard Hotel
Newry	Glen Electric Ltd.

TOTAL AID IN RESPECT OF 19 INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS – £1,443,627

Infrastructure projects (global application)

Location	Project
Antrim	Separate line to reinforce power supply for man-made fibre concern outside Antrim
Bog Meadow, Campsie, Dungannon and Mallusk	Sub-stations to provide power to industrial estates, firms and consumers

TOTAL AID IN RESPECT OF TWO PROJECTS – £231,000

Unwrought magnesium – EEC tariff quota 1976

In the 2 January 1976 issue of *Trade and Industry* (page 38) it was stated that discussions on the opening of an EEC tariff quota for 1976 for certain grades of unwrought magnesium were still in progress in Brussels. An EEC regulation (126/76) has now been approved by the EEC Council and published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* (L 14, 23 January 1976), providing for a duty-free tariff quota for three grades of unwrought magnesium for 1976.

The Import Duties (Quota Relief) Order 1976 (SI No. 118) was laid before the House of Commons on 29 January 1976 providing for the implementation of the United Kingdom's share of this tariff quota. Qualifying imports will be debited against the tariff quota in the order in which any importer enters them for home use and claims relief from duty on and after 30 January 1976.

The goods in question and the amounts of the UK's initial shares are as follows:

	Tariff no.	Description	Tonnes
1	ex 77.01 AII	Unwrought magnesium containing not less than 99.8 per cent. but less than 99.95 per cent. by weight of pure magnesium	140
2	77.01 AI ex 77.01 AII	Unwrought magnesium containing less than 99.8 per cent by weight of pure magnesium	15

In addition there are community reserves on which the United Kingdom may draw, depending on how quickly the original shares are used up, of 130 tonnes for (1) and 425 tonnes for (2). There will also be a community reserve of 600 tonnes of unwrought magnesium containing 99.95 per cent or more by weight of pure magnesium intended for the nuclear industry; this will be available for UK importers to draw upon, subject to their complying with HM Customs end-use control requirements.

Any inquiries regarding this notice should be addressed to General Division 2, Department of Trade, Room 333, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ. Inquiries about the extent to which the quota shares have been used should be made to the Tariff Quota Registration Unit, HM Customs and Excise, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE, tel. 01-626 1515 ext. 2570.

New EC legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as indicated against each item. The *Official Journal* is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other member states' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference point given at the end of the item.

Common Agricultural Policy

The texts of the following decision and regulations which affect various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*:

General. Regulation (EEC) 124/76 amending Regulation (EEC) 540/75 laying down additional measures to be taken in agriculture following the fixing, with effect from 3 March 1975, of new representative rates for the currencies of certain member states (*Official Journal* L13, 22 January 1976).

Oils, fats and oilseeds. Regulation (EEC) 86/76 postponing, to 23 January 1976, the date of entry into force of Regulation (EEC) 3366/75 (*Official Journal* L11, 20 January 1976).

Wine. Decision 76/67/EEC authorising Italy to apply protective measures in trade within the community in wines falling within CCT subheading 22.05 C, coming from Greece (*Official Journal* L12, 21 January 1976).

Milk and milk products. Regulation (EEC) 127/76 fixing the dates for the end of the 1975/76 milk year and the beginning of the 1976/77 milk year (*Official Journal* L14, 23 January 1976).

Commons Customs Tariff

The *Official Journal* L14, 23 January 1976, contains the text of Regulation (EEC) 128/76 temporarily and totally suspending, until 28 March 1976, the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duty for potatoes falling within subheading 07.01 A III b).

EEC/Israel agreement

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L13, 22 January 1976, contains the texts of the following regulations:

Regulation (EEC) 118/76 concluding the agreement in the form of an exchange of letters relating to Article 9 of Protocol 1 to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the State of Israel and concerning the importation into the community of fruit salads originating in Israel.

Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters relating to Article 9 of Protocol 1 to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the State of Israel and concerning the importation into the community of fruit salads originating in Israel.

Regulation (EEC) 119/76 concluding the agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and the State of Israel suspending the implementation of the tariff reduction for imports into the community of tomato concentrates falling within subheading 20.02 ex C of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Israel.

Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and the State of Israel suspending the implementation of the tariff reduction for imports into the community of tomato concentrates falling within subheading 20.02 ex C of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Israel.

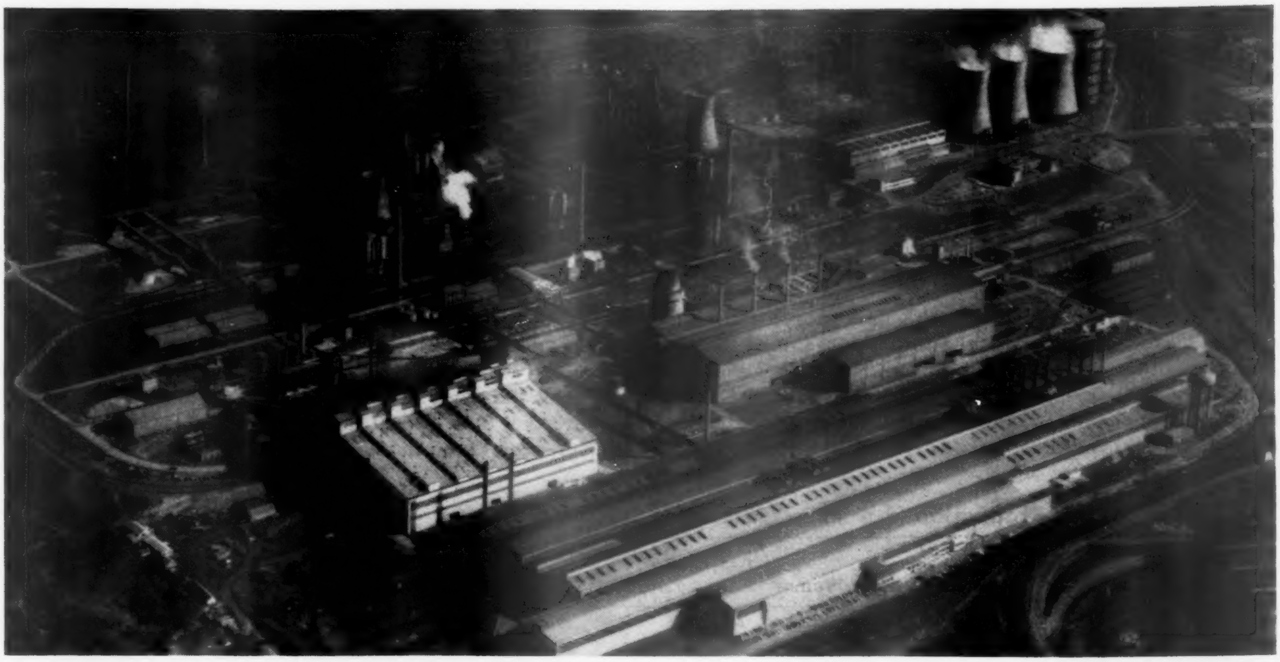
Rules of competition

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L329 of 23 December 1975 contains the text of a commission decision relating to a proceeding under Article 85 of the Treaty of Rome:

> 75/781/EEC – The Bomée-Stichting (reference DGIV 256) an association comprising manufacturers, importers, wholesalers and retailers of perfumes, toiletry articles and cosmetics for sale on the Dutch market. The association, whose members had adopted an agreement that included uniform conditions of sale, was notified to the commission in 1962. Amendments were made to the initial text of the conditions but in December 1972 the commission opened proceedings as some clauses of the agreement were considered to be incompatible with the rules of competition. Further modifications to the conditions were made but the commission has found that there is an infringement of Article 85 and required Bomée-Stichting to bring the infringement to an end without further delay.

Further information: Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, Fair Trading Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 5092.

Applications for copies of the 'Official Journal of the European Communities' containing the legislation referred to should be made to HMSO and not to the inquiry points given in the notices.



The largest steelworks in Scotland. British Steel's Ravenscraig works, Motherwell.

EEC loans worth £85 million – largest package yet for British industry

Three loans worth a total of £85 million, granted to the British steel industry by the EEC commission, together represent the largest package so far awarded in the UK. They bring the total of community industrial loans awarded in this country since 1 January 1973 to £356 million.

Granted under article 54 of the European Coal and Steel Community Treaty, the loans will be used for projects in Scotland, Sheffield and Cardiff, where they will contribute to the modernisation of existing plant and the construction of new facilities.

The largest of the sums awarded – and one of the largest ever awarded to an individual borrower in the UK – is £35 million to the British Steel Corporation towards the construction of an ore and coal importing terminal at Hunterston, Scotland. The new terminal is necessary to cope with the increasing requirements for imported ore and coal at the Corporation's Ravenscraig works, the largest steelworks in Scotland. The terminal will also be used to import ore for the new direct reduction plants which the Corporation have decided to build at Hunterston.

BSC will receive a further £30 million for the modernisation and extension of a stainless steel cold rolling and finishing works at Shepcote Lane Works, Sheffield. The new investment in the plant is part of the Corporation's major programme of investment in its stainless steel flat products capacity. The project will consolidate Sheffield as one of the major centres of special steel-making.

GKN (South Wales) Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Guest, Keen, and Nettlefolds Ltd., will receive £20 million to help finance a project at their works in Cardiff. The money will go towards the replacement of the existing rod and coil bar mill by a new four-strand rod mill, the installation of a new two-furnace electric arc and continuous casting plant, and the conversion of the old rod mill to a straight bar mill. The total estimated current cost of the project is £51.8 million.

European commission support for solar energy research

The European commission has now included solar energy among the topics on which it is seeking research proposals for support, as part of its non-nuclear research and development programme in energy. Proposals should be with the commission by the end of February 1976, on research into solar energy application to dwellings and photovoltaic conversion.

Details of the procedure for making application for support for solar research can be obtained from the Department of Energy (Dr. G. Preston, 01-211 5461) or from the Department of the Environment (Mr. P. J. O'Neill, 01-212 8457 or Dr. D. L. Nicol, 01-212 7403).

At the end of October, the commission invited direct application to Brussels for support of research into energy conservation and hydrogen (see *Trade and Industry*, 7 November 1975) and later for geothermal energy research (*Trade and Industry* 2 January).

Advice on all aspects of the programme can be obtained from the Department of Energy (Dr. G. Preston, 01-211 5461).

The future of European patent law

The probable future of the patent system in Europe and the likely effects for industry provided the theme for a talk given to members of the Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce on 21 January by Comptroller of the Patent Office Edward Armitage.

Mr. Armitage was the leader of the British delegation to the Luxembourg conference to finalise the Community Patent Convention last December*.

He explained to his audience, which consisted mainly of representatives from small and medium sized firms, that the latest convention, together with the European patent convention signed at Munich in 1973, provided a complete body of European patent law and procedure.

After giving some details of the outcome of the Luxembourg Conference, Mr. Armitage went on to describe the expected timetable for the implementation of the new system. First of all, he said, the working party report on fees for European patents should be published at the end of next month. Ratification of the European patent convention by the British parliament was expected by the end of this year and thereafter it was expected that the European Patent Office would open for the first patent application by the end of next year or the beginning of 1978.

* An article describing the provisions of the Community Patent Convention appeared in the 23 January issue of *Trade and Industry*.

Economic Indicators of the EEC

These tables have been prepared for the convenience of users who do not have access to the sources themselves; international publications (as indicated) have been used, supplemented by later reports where possible. In addition to the Member States of the EEC, the United States and Japan have been included for comparison.

The form of presentation adopted – indicators by subject – is for convenience only, and it must not be assumed that the indicators in the same table for different countries are strictly comparable. An attempt has been made to indicate major differences of definition, but the coverage and methods of collection vary considerably; this is partly due to different administrative procedures in various countries. Fuller details may be obtained from the sources indicated, and from the national publications of the countries concerned.

At extensive bibliography – 'Sources of Statistics: 2. The European Economic Community' – which lists publications in the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library of the Department of Trade, is obtainable on request to the library at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 368). 'Statistical News' No. 21 (May 1973), published by the Central Statistical Office, contains a selected bibliography of statistical publications of the Commission of the European Communities.

TABLE 1 **Industrial Production** (Excluding construction) Seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium	Luxembourg	France[1]	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom	EEC[3]	*United States*	*Japan*
Weights in EEC	3.9	0.3	18.1	39.9	0.6	13.3	4.5	19.4	100.0	—	—
Weights in total	1.3	0.1	6.0	13.2	0.2	4.4	1.5	6.4	33.1	*43.3*	*11.9*
1968	88	88	84	83	90	91	81	96	87	*99*	*74*
1969	97	100	94	94	97	94	91	99	95	*104*	*88*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	103	99	104	102	105	100	106	100	102	*100*	*103*
1972	109	103	112	106	109	104	111	102	106	*108*	*110*
1973	116	115	120	113	119	114	118	111	115	*118*	*127*
1974	120	119	123	112	123	120	121	108	116 (e)	*117*	*124*
1973 1st quarter	115	114	118	113	119	105	115	111	112	*115*	*122*
2nd quarter	114	112	120	113	120	114	116	111	114	*117*	*127*
3rd quarter	115	115	122	113	119	118	119	111	116	*119*	*129*
4th quarter	118	120	122	115	120	120	121	111	116	*119*	*132*
1974 1st quarter	123	124	125	114	127	123	122	105	116	*117*	*130*
2nd quarter	122	119	126	113	124	125	122	110	117	*118*	*127*
3rd quarter	121	120	126	112	121	119	123	110	116	*118*	*122*
4th quarter	117	114	118	109	119	111	120	107	111	*114*	*115*
1975 1st quarter	112	103	114	106	116	110	117	107	109	*105*	*106*
2nd quarter	108	92	111	103	115	106	114	102	105	*103*	*110*
3rd quarter	103	83	110	102		105	111	101	104	*107*	*113*
1974 August	119	118	129	111		112	125	111	115	*117*	*121*
September	122	121	122	112		123	124	109	116	*118*	*121*
October	121	120	122	111		117	122	108	114	*117*	*118*
November	118	115	117	110		111	122	108	113	*114*	*115*
December	111	107	114	106		106	116	106	108	*110*	*112*
1975 January	115	104	115	104		110	116	108	108	*107*	*107*
February	113	102	115	105		113	116	107	109	*104*	*105*
March	109	102	112	107		107	118	105	108	*103*	*105*
April	111	92	112	101		109	113	103	105	*103*	*109*
May	104	86	108	105		102	114	101	105	*103*	*110*
June	110	96	113	103		108	114	101	106	*104*	*111*
July	103	90	110	98		109	108	102	103	*105*	*114*
August	97	61	110	104		97	111	100	103	*107*	*112*
September	109	96	110	104		108	114	101	105 (e)	*109*	*114*
October	110	89	111	105		109 (e)	114	103	106 (e)	*109*	*114*
November				107 (e)				103		*110*	*113* (e)
% change latest three months:											
On previous three months	−0.3	−9.6	Nil	3.6	−0.9	−1.6	+0.9	1.3	Nil	*3.8*	*1.0*
On a year earlier	−12.7	−31.5	−11.3	−5.1	−7.3	−10.8	−8.6	−5.5	−9.0	*−6.0*	*−3.3*

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[1] Excluding clothing, wood products and furniture.

[2] Mining and manufacturing only.

[3] Excluding Denmark.

(e) Estimated.

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

Do you use statistics?

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) prepares a wide range of reliable and detailed figures on the United Kingdom. It is usually worth checking to see if what you want is available from them. You can see many government statistical publications at your local public library, buy them from HMSO or refer to the comprehensive collection held at the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4N 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 368).

A free pamphlet, *Government Statistics – a brief guide to sources,* gives up-to-date contact points in Departments for further information. You can obtain copies from regional offices of the Department of Industry or by writing to the Central Statistical Office Press and Information Service, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ.

TABLE 2 Unemployment seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

		Belgium[1,2]	Denmark[1,3]	France[2,4]	German F.R.[5]	Ireland[1]	Italy[6]	Netherlands[2,5]	Great Britain[5]	*United States*[6]	*Japan*[7]
1968		147	163	97	218	88	113	147	95	*69*	*108*
1969		120	129	85	120	86	108	115	94	*69*	*104*
1970		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971		100	125	129	126	100	100	135	129	*122*	*111*
1972		123	125	145	166	114	113	235	142	*118*	*119*
1973		130	84	150	184	104	109	239	102	*105*	*107*
1974		148	186	190	391	114	91	293	101	*124*	*117*
1975									157		
1974	1st quarter	131	81	168	287	102	89	263	96	*115*	*107*
	2nd quarter	137	135	169	375	110	86	270	97	*114*	*111*
	3rd quarter	151	208	181	468	117	90	302	104	*123*	*118*
	4th quarter	172	323	235	553	133	98	337	107	*148*	*143*
1975	1st quarter	199	420	279	558	164	90	378	123	*187*	*152*
	2nd quarter	239	423	319	811	179	118	413	143	*201*	*180*
	3rd quarter	269	410	335	902	186	106	450	170	*191*	*196*
	4th quarter								190		
1974	August	148	205	177	466	114		304	105	*120*	*118*
	September	158	247	190	510	121		311	106	*130*	*121*
	October	166	303	213	546	126	98	324	107	*136*	*130*
	November	172	327	240	566	133		343	108	*147*	*142*
	December	179	338	252	548	140		354		*162*	*156*
1975	January	186	426	267	505	157	90	367	119	*184*	*149*
	February	197	403	278	556	167		378	124	*183*	*151*
	March	213	434	292	613	169		389	127	*195*	*156*
	April	227	451	304	744	174	118	407	134	*200*	*161*
	May	239	418	319	812	179		411	144	*209*	*165*
	June	254	399	335	877	183		420	152	*193*	*167*
	July	258	355	338	894	186	106	439	165	*192*	*194*
	August	269	433	330	901	183		450	170	*191*	*195*
	September	280	445	337	912	188		456	176	*190*	*199*
	October	297	454	344	855	188		459	184	*196*	*200*
	November	297	448	353	789			485	190	*188*	
	December				795 (e)				197	*190* (e)	
1976	January								204		
Rate %[8]		5.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	6.9	3.3	4.7	4.6	*8.9*	*1.9*
% change latest three months											
On previous three months		11.9	13.5	3.1	10.1	2.0	−10.2	7.0	11.51	*+0.2*	*13.0*
On a year earlier		76.2	53.6	60.8	46.7	54.9	17.8	43.2	77.0	*29.0*	*61.0*

Note: Figures of total unemployment and unemployment rates are very sensitive to the particular measures used and the sources from which they are obtained. The figures in this table to a large extent reflect the different administrative systems and social-security provisions of the countries concerned.

[1] Insured unemployed. [2] Change of basis during period. [3] Monthly data are weekly averages. [4] Unfilled applications. [5] GB percent change on year is estimated.

[6] Based on results of sample survey. [7] Unemployment-insurance beneficiaries.

[8] Numbers in latest month available as % of total employees (UK) and of total labour force (others) (1970). (e) Estimated.

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.
GB source: 'Monthly Digest of Statistics'.

TABLE 3 Exports (fob) Special trade[1], seasonally adjusted

US$ million*

		Belgium/ Luxembourg	Denmark[2]	France	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom[2]	EEC	*United States*[2]	*Japan*[2]
1968		8,160	2,580	12,708	24,840	792	10,188	8,340	15,348	82,956	*34,416*	*12,972*
1969		10,068	2,952	15,024	29,052	888	11,724	9,960	17,520	97,200	*37,992*	*15,984*
1970		11,592	3,288	17,940	34,188	1,032	13,188	11,772	19,356	112,356	*43,224*	*19,320*
1971		12,081	3,609	20,592	39,009	1,308	15,177	13,953	22,356	128,084	*44,211*	*23,994*
1972		15,995	4,330	25,739	46,208	1,610	18,535	16,392	24,340	153,152	*49,676*	*28,591*
1973		22,317	6,129	35,948	67,701	2,127	22,188	23,946	28,862	210,645	*71,622*	*36,834*
1974		28,137	7,725	45,835	89,085	2,634	30,147	32,496 (e)	37,175	275,076	*98,763*	*55,278*
1975									41,740			
1974	1st quarter	6,255	1,779	10,452	20,571	597	6,621	7,176	7,959	61,695	*22,326*	*11,442*
	2nd quarter	7,311	1,887	11,208	22,761	636	7,197	8,154	9,585	69,066	*24,402*	*13,911*
	3rd quarter	7,260	1,977	11,895	22,386	666	8,136	8,559	9,948	71,265	*25,281*	*14,445*
	4th quarter	7,296	2,088	12,465	23,337	738	8,181	8,646	9,713	72,849	*26,706*	*15,396*
1975	1st quarter	7,893	2,199	13,557	23,625	771	8,712	8,928	10,347	77,061	*26,850*	*14,907*
	2nd quarter	7,035	2,193	13,317	23,133	756	8,454	8,532	10,377	74,355	*25,795*	*13,842*
	3rd quarter	6,408	2,055	12,441	21,069	804	8,679	7,863	9,830	69,047 (e)	*27,135*	*13,164*
	4th quarter								10,910			
1974	August	2,523	648	3,966	7,578	221	2,606	2,556	3,401	23,540	*6,447*	*5,004*
	September	2,339	669	4,039	7,197	208	2,643	2,861	3,526	23,577	*8,460*	*4,664*
	October	2,337	674	3,876	7,401	223	2,680	2,793	3,376	23,365	*8,698*	*5,353*
	November	2,514	731	4,054	8,076	249	2,671	2,733	3,016	24,252	*9,159*	*5,246*
	December	2,307	677	4,537	7,796	269	2,898	2,985	3,228	24,883	*8,841*	*4,898*
1975	January	2,640	732	4,427	7,962	284	2,713	3,041	3,712	25,683	*9,419*	*5,163*
	February	2,783	748	4,669	7,977	264	2,887	2,971	3,475	26,027	*8,846*	*4,911*
	March	2,421	684	4,339	7,180	215	2,914	2,823	3,794	24,542	*8,749*	*4,641*
	April	2,445	809	4,550	8,222	278	2,763	3,171	3,287	25,654	*8,610*	*4,789*
	May	2,285	706	4,310	7,354	265	2,785	2,722	3,742	24,415	*8,414*	*4,571*
	June	2,388	749	4,581	8,169	221	2,921	2,857	3,384	25,442	*8,788*	*4,481*
	July	2,053	707	4,186	7,224	266	2,799	2,655	3,418	23,459	*8,896*	*4,423*
	August	2,240	671	4,142	6,704	263	3,031	2,499	3,156	22,883	*9,119*	*4,420*
	September	2,116	678	4,114	7,142	274	2,850	2,708	3,306	23,069 (e)	*9,147*	*4,320*
	October		806	4,148	7,200	312	2,918		3,578		*9,303*	
	November								3,356			
	December								3,574			
% change in dollar terms latest three months												
On previous three months		−10.0	−0.3	−5.2	−7.5	+12.9	+3.5	−10.2	+6.4	−8.1	*+5.6*	*−4.9*
On a year earlier		−12.4	+8.2	+4.4	−5.1	+30.2	+11.0	−6.4	+9.2	- 2.6	*+7.7*	*−9.5*
% change in national currencies latest three months												
On previous three months		−7.7	2.7	−3.3	−5.7	17.6	5.6	−9.0	10.8	1.4	*5.6*	*−3.2*
On a year earlier		−8.7	11.7	−0.2	−2.0	48.4	14.5	−2.8	24.5	10.7	*7.7*	*−8.2*

[1] For most purposes special trade may be defined as trade excluding re-exports. [2] General trade. [3] Weighted average of percentage changes in national currencies.

* All values are expressed in US dollars, making use of IMF parity rates as quoted in 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.

(e) estimated.

Source: United Kingdom: Department of Trade
All others: 'OECD Series "A"'

TABLE 4 **Imports (cif)** Special trade[1], seasonally adjusted

US$ million*

	Belgium/ Luxembourg	Denmark[2]	France	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom[2]	EEC	*United States[2, 3]*	*Japan[2]*
1968	8,304	3,216	13,980	20,148	1,176	10,248	9,288	18,960	85,320	*33,108*	*12,984*
1969	9,984	3,804	17,388	24,924	1,416	12,444	10,992	19,956	100,908	*35,048*	*15,024*
1970	11,352	4,380	19,116	29,808	1,572	14,940	13,392	21,720	116,280	*39,960*	*18,876*
1971	12,390	4,476	21,261	34,356	1,838	16,026	15,159	23,897	129,403	*45,633*	*19,716*
1972	14,903	4,986	26,696	39,759	2,113	19,252	17,127	27,831	152,643	*55,819*	*23,463*
1973	21,762	7,425	37,587	54,465	2,775	27,858	24,419	38,891	215,013	*69,126*	*38,331*
1974	28,890	9,393	52,980	69,006	3,801	41,076	33,288 (e)	54,095	292,989 (e)	*77,420*	*62,034*
1975								53,344			
1973 1st quarter	4,668	1,569	7,941	11,949	615	5,373	5,379	8,127	45,624	*16,017*	*7,428*
2nd quarter	5,202	1,776	9,000	13,002	681	6,777	5,724	9,438	51,597	*16,581*	*9,063*
3rd quarter	5,868	1,992	10,215	14,436	741	7,713	6,678	10,224	57,867	*17,619*	*10,170*
4th quarter	6,099	2,127	10,539	15,141	759	8,052	6,732	10,935	60,930	*18,828*	*11,763*
1974 1st quarter	6,522	2,331	11,973	15,354	834	9,387	7,197	12,024	65,661	*21,615*	*14,265*
2nd quarter	7,578	2,391	13,251	17,436	996	10,203	8,445	14,163	74,511	*24,951*	*15,891*
3rd quarter	7,485	2,331	13,935	17,865	1,023	11,121	8,835	13,897	76,605	*27,189*	*15,819*
4th quarter	7,290	2,337	13,809	18,345	939	10,314	8,817	14,047	75,951	*27,294*	*16,032*
1975 1st quarter	7,479	2,445	14,016	18,618	987	9,273	9,297	13,943	76,056	*25,002*	*14,895*
2nd quarter	7,359	2,415	13,131	18,678	924	9,039	8,760	12,970	72,296	*22,275*	*13,521*
3rd quarter	6,891	2,439	12,777	17,937	906	9,393	8,091	13,070	70,871 (e)	*23,712* (e)	*14,436*
4th quarter								13,194			
1974 July	2,675	795	4,786	5,926	354	4,237	3,194	4,751	26,903	*8,792*	*5,543*
August	2,404	810	4,730	6,197	357	3,493	2,732	4,618	25,280	*9,469*	*5,180*
September	2,468	727	4,572	5,734	330	3,494	2,932	4,564	24,969	*8,951*	*4,994*
October	2,349	759	4,514	6,010	308	3,564	2,861	4,760	25,083	*8,732*	*5,220*
November	2,362	788	4,477	6,193	291	3,191	2,872	4,691	24,835	*9,311*	*5,357*
December	2,468	738	4,660	6,031	316	3,454	2,923	4,493	25,214	*9,365*	*5,289*
1975 January	2,440	850	4,742	6,032	339	2,998	3,122	4,984	25,411	*9,831*	*5,173*
February	2,476	850	4,669	6,503	347	2,917	3,094	4,693	25,533	*7,797*	*4,814*
March	2,401	722	4,412	5,741	290	3,167	2,920	4,256	24,015	*7,381*	*4,869*
April	2,597	919	4,549	7.039	326	3,059	3,044	4,375	25,906	*7,917*	*4,610*
May	2,414	809	4,244	5,882	310	2,823	2,886	4,265	23,641	*7,314*	*4,609*
June	2,453	790	4,472	6,222	295	3,234	2,988	4,333	24,797	*7,052*	*4,333*
July	2,267	803	4,294	5,847	302	3,142	2,676	4,439	23,772	*7,805*	*4,823*
August	2,185	805	4,173	5,843	286	2,814	2,544	4,404	23,057	*8,130*	*4,593*
September	2,440	830	4,309	6,246	317	3,436	2,870	4,227			
October		874	4,644	6,320	303	3,292		4,395		*8,189* (e)	*5,019*
November								4,357		*8,212* (e)	
December								4,439			
% change in dollar terms latest three months											
On previous three months	−7.7	+4.5	+0.9	+2.6	−0.1	+3.7	−9.3	+0.9	−2.6	*10.6*	*6.5*
On a year earlier	−8.7	+9.3	−5.0	+2.6	−8.9	−9.6	−8.7	−5.4	−7.6	*−9.7*	*−8.2*
% change in national currencies latest three months											
On previous three months	−5.3	7.6	2.9	4.6	4.1	5.8	−8.1	5.1	2.1	*10.6*	*8.4*
On a year earlier	−4.8	12.8	−9.2	6.0	3.8	−6.7	−5.1	7.8	0.6	*−9.7*	*−6.8*

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[1] For most purposes special trade may be defined as trade excluding re-exports. [2] General trade. [3] fob. [4] Weighted average of percentage changes in national currencies.

* All values are expressed in US dollars with the use of IMF parity rates as quoted in 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.

(e) estimated.

Source: United Kingdom: Department of Trade. All others: 'OECD Series "A" '.

TABLE 5 **Balance of Payments on Current Account**

US$ million (unadjusted)

	Belgium/ Luxembourg	Denmark	France	German F.R.	Ireland	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom	EEC	*United States*	*Japan*
1968	28	−216	−1,059	2,964	−60	2,688	65	−1,283	3,432	*374*	*1,048*
1969	74	−410	−1,798	1,931	−197	2,406	31	1,068	2,723	*217*	*2,119*
1970	724	−544	+297	729	−194	902	−518	1,661	2,470	*−281*	*1,970*
1971	851	−423	530	323	208	2,041	−233	2,588	5,143	*−3,881*	*5,821*
1972	1,113	−66	297	1,041	−139	2,266	1,050	221	4,314	*−9,714*	*6,624*
1973	1,140	−472	−691	4,349	−216	−2,510	1,750	−5,626	865 (e)	*337*	*−133*
1974	912	−987	−5,939	9,676		−7,817	1,648	−12,248		*−3,362*	*−4,650*
1975								−7,137			
1972 1st quarter	279	−39	−326	135		811	17	−73		*−2,192*	*959*
2nd quarter	215	54	445	78		903	251	476		*−2,772*	*1,212*
3rd quarter	235	−36	−1	−306		782	393	−355		*−3,656*	*2,085*
4th quarter	384	−46	169	1,135		−230	389	173		*−1,094*	*2,369*
1973 1st quarter	366	−151	−225	565		−669	396	−890		*−311*	*497*
2nd quarter	232	−179	280	1,039		−736	574	−471		*−941*	*−416*
3rd quarter	217	69	−542	826		−14	−41	−603		*−1,087*	*101*
4th quarter	326	−211	−206	1,919		−1,060	822	−1,165		*2,676*	*−315*
1974 1st quarter	340	−519	−1,602	2,783		−2,503	335	−3,195		*1,323*	*−3,274*
2nd quarter	−121	−311	−1,864	2,193		−2,433	405	−3,216		*−1,869*	*−2,377*
3rd quarter	324	−141	−1,928	827		−1,413	478	−2,962		*−4,099*	*−133*
4th quarter	369	−16	−545	3,873		−1,467	429	−2,871		*1,283*	*1,133*
1975 1st quarter	622		−257	2,200		−461	129	−2,476		*3,073*	*−887*
2nd quarter	134			900			584	−1,584		*4,187*	*−314*
3rd quarter				−479				−2,044			
4th quarter								−1,447			

Source: UK: Central Statistical Office. All others: IMF International Financial Statistics.

TABLE 6 Export Unit Values of Manufactures

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium/ Luxembourg		France		German F.R.		Italy		Netherlands		United Kingdom		*United States*	*Japan*	
	US $	Bfrs.	US $	frs.	US $	D.M.	US $	lire	US $	Gdrs.	US $	£	US $	US $	Yen
1968	92	92	96	85	88	96	90	90	95	95	90	90	91	90	90
1969	85	85	97	90	92	98	93	93	97	97	93	93	95	94	94
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1971	101	98	105	105	108	102	106	105	104	101	106	105	102	104	101
1972	112	99	115	105	117	103	114	106	117	104	116	111	104	116	99
1973	137	107	143	114	147	107	126	118	139	107	127	124	113	141	107
1974	171	133	162	140	172	121	154	160	178	132	153	155	137	181	147
1972 1st quarter	110	97	114	104	117	103	112	105	117	105	119	110	104	112	96
2nd quarter	112	99	114	105	116	102	113	105	116	104	120	111	105	115	98
3rd quarter	112	98	115	106	118	104	114	106	117	105	112	114	104	117	100
4th quarter	114	101	117	108	117	103	114	106	117	105	113	115	107	119	102
1973 1st quarter	122	102	126	110	124	103	119	110	124	105	119	118	107	125	100
2nd quarter	134	105	141	112	141	105	121	115	135	107	129	122	111	136	100
3rd quarter	148	108	153	115	162	106	131	120	148	124	131	127	114	147	108
4th quarter	147	113	152	121	157	109	133	125	152	112	132	133	120	154	118
1974 1st quarter	150	123	141	125	154	114	133	137	154	121	134	141	127	165	134
2nd quarter	173	132	158	139	175	120	148	151	179	130	153	153	132	183	142
3rd quarter	177	137	170	147	175	125	163	171	186	137	159	162	142	185	152
4th quarter	183	138	181	151	183	126	171	181	192	138	165	170	148	190	159
1975 1st quarter	199	139	196	151	203	130	184	188	209	139	178	179	156	192	157
2nd quarter			208	153	203	131					182	188	159	188	152
3rd quarter					189	131					175	197	159		
% change latest 3 months:															
On previous 3 months	+8.7	+0.7	+6.1	+1.3	−6.9	Nil	+7.6	+3.9	+8.9	+0.7	−3.9	+4.8	Nil	−2.1	−3.2
On a year earlier	+32.7	+13.0	+31.7	+10.1	+8.0	+4.8	+38.4	+37.2	+35.7	+14.9	+10.1	+21.6	+12.0	+2.3	+7.0

(e) estimated.

Source: Dollar value: 'United Nations Monthly Bulletin'. National currency: Dollar values converted at OECD exchange rates as quoted in 'Series A'
: UK Department of Trade

TABLE 7 Consumer prices All goods and services

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium[1]	Luxembourg[1]	Denmark	France	German F.R.	Ireland	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom	*United States*	*Japan*
1968	92	93	91	89	93	86	93	89	90	90	88
1969	96	96	94	95	96	92	95	96	94	94	93
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1971	104	105	106	105	105	109	105	108	109	104	106
1972	110	110	113	112	111	118	111	116	117	108	111
1973	118	117	123	120	119	132	122	125	127	114	125
1974	133	128	142	136	127	154	146	137	147	127	153
1973 1st quarter	115	114	118	116	116	126	118	121	122	111	117
2nd quarter	117	117	122	118	118	130	121	125	125	113	123
3rd quarter	118	117	125	121	119	133	124	126	128	116	127
4th quarter	121	119	129	124	122	137	127	129	132	118	132
1974 1st quarter	125	123	134	129	125	144	134	132	137	122	144
2nd quarter	130	127	140	135	127	151	141	136	145	125	151
3rd quarter	136	129	144	139	128	157	150	138	149	129	156
4th quarter	140	133	149	143	130	165	160	143	156	133	163
1975 1st quarter	144	136	152	147	132	178	165	146	166	135	165
2nd quarter	148	140	156	151	135	189	169	150	181	137	171
3rd quarter	151	143	158	154	136	187 (e)	173	153	189	140	173
1974 August	136	129	143	139	128	157	150	138	149	129	156
September	137	130	145	140	128		155	140	151	130	158
October	139	131	147	142	129		156	142	154	132	162
November	140	133	150	143	130	165	160	143	156	133	163
December	141	134	150	144	130		162	144	159	134	164
1975 January	143	135	151	146	131		164	145	164	134	164
February	144	137	152	147	132	178	166	145	167	135	165
March	145	138	153	148	133		166	147	170	136	168
April	147	139	154	150	134		168	149	177	136	171
May	148	140	156	151	134	189	169	150	184	137	173
June	149	141	157	152	135		171	150	187	138	172
July	150	142	158	153	135		171	151	190	140	173
August	151	143	158	154	135	187	173	153	191	140	172
September	152	144	159	155	136		174	155	192	141	176
October	154	146	155	156	136		176	156	195	142	179
November	156	147		157	137		178	156	197	143	177
December									200	143	
% change latest 3 months:											
On previous 3 months	2.8	2.7	0.4	2.3	0.7	−1.1	2.5	2.8	3.4	1.6	2.7
On a year earlier	11.1	11.1	8.4	10.3	5.8	19.1	11.6	9.9	25.3	7.4	10.1

Excluding rent.

(e) estimated.

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

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TABLE 8 Value of retail sales Current prices, seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium/ Luxembourg	Denmark	France[2]	German F.R.[3]	Ireland[4]	Italy[6, 7]	Netherlands	Great Britain[5]	*United States*	*Japan*
1968	83	82	88	82	83	84	80	89	*92*	*80*
1969	90	90	97	90	91	90	89	93	*95*	*89*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	108	108	104	111	111	111	108	109	*109*	*110*
1972	120	119	110	121	126	125	122	123	*119*	*118*
1973	138	134	117	130	148	152	136	139	*134*	*145*
1974	159	147	133	137	168	189	150	161	*143*	*165*
1973 1st quarter	133	128	112	131	140	123	132	135	*132*	*135*
2nd quarter	135	130	116	130	147	141	134	133	*132*	*139*
3rd quarter	136	137	114	128	149	140	137	140	*136*	*147*
4th quarter	144	141	124	130	154	204	140	147	*137*	*156*
1974 1st quarter	155	144	127	134	158	160	144	150	*138*	*157*
2nd quarter	159	148	131	135	165	166	149	154	*142*	*160*
3rd quarter	165	148	136	140	169	181	155	165	*148*	*170*
4th quarter	170	152	139	138	175	236	153	174	*142*	*173*
1975 1st quarter	178	161	141	146	183	181	164	182	*148*	*186*
2nd quarter	178	164	145	147	192	194	166	190	*151*	*192*
3rd quarter	183	166	146	150	200	182 (e)	167 (e)	193	*158*	*192*
1974 June	157	146	130	129	163	173	144	157	*142*	*165*
July	162	149	135	137	156	184	151	160	*148*	*167*
August	157	148	133	139	172	162	155	165	*150*	*167*
September	164	147	140	143	171	196	154	168	*148*	*177*
October	172	151	146	143	175	225	155	171	*146*	*170*
November	162	153	136	139	177	196	153	175	*142*	*174*
December	174	151	136	133	173	288	152	174	*144*	*174*
1975 January	178	160	139	150	185	168	161	181	*147*	*182*
February	177	163	142	145	182	169	167	182	*150*	*186*
March	179	160	144	143	183	208	163	182	*147*	*191*
April	183	163	146	147	188	188	169	202	*150*	*191*
May	171	162	146	149	198	203	165	182	*154*	*192*
June	179	167	143	146	189	193	166	188	*155*	*193*
July	179	169	143	149	193	198	168	191	*159*	*193*
August	182	166	145	146	198	166	167	192	*160*	*194*
September	187	162	150	156	208			196	*158*	*190*
October		169	156	155	212			196	*160*	
November								199 (e)	*162*	
% change latest 3 months:										
On previous 3 months	2.8	−0.2	4.4	2.9	6.6	−7.0	0.8	3.5	*1.3*	*0.2*
On a year earlier	13.5	11.4	7.6	7.5	19.3	7.3	11.1	15.0	*10.1*	*12.9*

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[2] Department and chainstores.
[3] Including indirect taxes.
[4] Average weekly sales.
[5] Excluding motor vehicles.
[6] Including chainstores.
[7] Not seasonally adjusted.

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

TABLE 9 Earnings/wages per head in manufacturing

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium/ Luxembourg	Denmark[1, 2]	France	German F.R.[6] †	Ireland[2]	Italy[7]	Netherlands[3]	Great Britain	*United States[4]*	*Japan[5]* †
1968	84	81	82	79	76	78	82	81	*90*	*73*
1969	92	90	91	87	86	83	90	89	*95*	*85*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	111	115	110	111	116	112	112	111	*106*	*114*
1972	126	129	121	121	133	124	126	126	*113*	*132*
1973	147	153	138	136	159	154	142	143	*121*	*163*
1974	178	187	162	152	191	189	168	166	*131*	*206*
1972 1st quarter	122	123	115	116	127	119	122	121	*111*	*123*
2nd quarter	124	128	118	119	131	121	124	124	*112*	*129*
3rd quarter	127	130	121	122	135	126	128	127	*113*	*131*
4th quarter	132	134	125	125	140	130	129	131	*116*	*138*
1973 1st quarter	140	137	129	131	145	137	137	134	*118*	*148*
2nd quarter	144	151	133	134	157	151	140	139	*120*	*155*
3rd quarter	149	160	138	137	164	161	146	144	*122*	*163*
4th quarter	154	168	144	141	168	168	148	150	*124*	*174*
1974 1st quarter	162	173	147	144	172	176	158	147	*126*	*179*
2nd quarter	173	185	155	150	188	184	166	159	*129*	*201*
3rd quarter	184	190	164	156	196	194	174	172	*133*	*215*
4th quarter	192	202	169	159	207	202	175	185	*137*	*215*
1975 1st quarter	201	211	173	158	222	225	185	194	*139*	*229*
2nd quarter	207	223	177	161		238	189	202	*141*	*216*
3rd quarter		226	187	164		245	198	215	*144*	*242*
4th quarter			190 (e)							
% change latest 3 months:										
On previous 3 months	+3.0	1.4	1.9	1.9	+7.3	2.9	4.8	6.4	*2.1*	*12.0*
On a year earlier	+19.7	19.0	12.5	5.1	+29.1	26.3	13.8	25.0	*8.3*	*12.7*

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† Seasonally adjusted.
[1] Including mining. [2] Earnings. [3] Hourly rates industry: males. [4] Gross hourly earnings per productive worker. [5] Monthly earnings in manufacturing: regular workers.
[6] Wages and salaries per employed person in industry, excluding construction, public gas and electricity undertakings. [7] Hourly-rates times average daily hours worked.

Source: All countries 'OECD Main Economic Indicators', except German Federal Republic ('Monatsberichte der Deutschen Bundesbank', Reine 4), Italy ('I.L.O. Yearbook' and 'M.E.I.') and Great Britain ('Department of Employment Gazette' and M.E.I.).

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series expressed as index numbers and seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
				of which			of which					
			Total	Manu-facturing industry	Distributive and service industries	Total	Manu-facturing industry	Whole-salers	Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index £m in base year Series in	1970	1970 31,472	1970 9,380	1970 2,130	1970 2,090	£ million				£ million		
1970	100	100	100	100	100	450	325	68	−30	735	−12	747
1971	102	103	102	93	104	70	−148	52	−10	1,048	282	766
1972	104	109	104	82	117	−5	−175	48	−11	128	−690	818
1973	110	114	107	88	125	960	396	102	334	−835	−2,295	1,460
1974	110	114	105	98	113	553	666	81	−68	−3,668	−5,234	1,566
1975										−1,687	−3,211	1,524
1973 1st qtr.	110	115	109	86	130	353	166	37	51	−125	−329	204
2nd qtr.	109	113	104	83	118	274	88	3	185	−63	−388	325
3rd qtr.	110	115	107	92	120	155	46	29	47	−217	−583	366
4th qtr	109	115	107	89	132	178	96	32	51	−430	−995	565
1974 1st qtr	106	113	108	97	112	−174	−31	18	−59	−845	−1,272	427
2nd qtr.	110	112	100	96	110	274	191	43	27	−948	−1,336	388
3rd qtr.	112	114	103	97	119	359	368	3	−14	−823	−1,199	376
4th qtr.	111	115	107	101	113	94	139	17	−22	−1,052	−1,427	375
1975 1st qtr.	110	116	105	93	102	−171	−4	−31	−57	−425	−860	435
2nd qtr.	107	114	103	87	100	−288	−112	−54	−52	−337	−678	341
3rd qtr.	107	112	107	82	102	−157	−211	−25	60	−577	−965	388
4th qtr.		1								−348	−708	360 **
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	−3.0	—2.2	−1.2	−13.3	−6.4							
on a year earlier	−3.6	−0.3	+3.5	−12.7	−11.7							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted)					Labour (UK)			Trade	
	Total all indus-tries	Total manu-facturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new regis-trations	Retail prices		Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry		Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all indus-tries and services)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students		Unfilled vacancies for adults	Exports	Imports
				monthly averages		% increase on a year earlier	basic materials and fuel used	manu-factured products: home sales*		mid-month count	% of total em-ployees	mid-month count	On a balance of payments basis	
Base of index £m in base year Series in	1970	1970	1971 15,895	thousands	Jan. 1974		1970	1970	July 1972	thousands		thousands	£ million at current prices	
1971	100.5	99.7	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	775.8	3.4	130.9	8,810	8,528
1972	102.6	102.4	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	855.0	3.7	147.3	9,140	9,830
1973	110.3	110.9	110.7	137.3	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2	115.6	611.0	2.6	307.0	11,771	14,066
1974	106.3	107.8	109.9	102.7	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	600.3ø	2.6ø	302.7ø	15,886	21,120
1975				97.2	134.8	24.2	235.3 p	188.7 p	179.7 p	929.3	4.0	148.2ø	18,783p	21,994 p
1974 1st qtr.	104.4	106.5	109.8	103	101.4	12.9	212.5	138.3	125.0	572.9	2.5	288.6	3,490	4,762
2nd qtr.	107.9	109.4	107.3	104	107.5	15.8	213.7	148.9	132.3	579.4	2.5	313.0	3,996	5,332
3rd qtr.	108.3	109.6	111.0	109	110.2	17.0	212.9	156.1	144.0	621.2	2.7	310.1	4,231	5,430
4th qtr.	104.8	105.7	111.6	96	115.1	18.2	222.1	164.9	153.5	..	..	..	4,169	5,596
1975 1st qtr.	104.8	106.1	111.5	108	122.0	20.3	220.9	176.0	163.6	733.3	3.2	..	4,534	5,395
2nd qtr.	100.2	100.4	108.7	92	133.6	24.3	225.6	186.3	176.3	849.7	3.7	159.8	4,464	5,142
3rd qtr.	100 0	100.1	105.3	105	139.4	26.6	239.3	193.4	185.4	1008.5	4.3	135.2	4,642	5,607
4th qtr.			105.9 p	84	144.2	25.3	255.5 p	199.1 p	193.6 p	1125.6	4.8	119.4 p	5,143 p	5,851 p
1975 Jan.	105.5	107.7	113.0	111	119.9	19.9	222.1	173.0	159.8	709.0 e	3.0 e	..	1,510	1,926
Feb.	105.2	106.9	112.3	114	121.9	19.9	218.8	175.9	162.0	736.7	3.2	196.3	1,479	1,815
Mar.	103.6	103.8	109.4	98	124.3	21.2	221.9	179.2	169.0	754.1	3.2	189.7	1,545	1,654
Apr.	101.5	101.7	120.2	90	129.1	21 7	222.9	182.5	170.1	794.2	3.4	176.5	1,366	1,725
May	99.4	99.4	102.5	91	134.5	25.0	226.2	187.3	176.4	853.5	3.7	158.6	1,613	1.689
June	99.7	100.0	104.5	96	137.1	26 1	227.7	189.0	182.5	901.4	3.9	144.4	1,484	1,728
July	100.6	100.9	104.7	90	138.5	26.3	233.2	191.7	184.7	976.5	4.2	131.6	1,564	1,926
Aug.	98.8	98.9	104.9	93	139.3	26.9	241.4	193.5	185.5	1008.8	4.3	136.7	1,492	1,875
Sept.	100.5	100.5	106.0	131	140.5	26.6	243.2	194.9	185.9	1040.1	4.5	137.4	1,586	1,806
Oct.	101.7	101.5	105.3	85	142.5	25.9	251.7 p	197.0	187.3	1088.5	4.7	126.2	1,739	1,961
Nov.	101.8	101.5	105.9	84	144.2	25.2	256.1 p	198.8 p	195.4	1125.3	4.8	117.3	1,637	1,924
Dec.			106½ p	84	146.0	24.9	258.6 p	201.4 p	198.0 p	1163.2	5.0	114.8	1,767 p	1,966 p
1976 Jan.										1205.5 p	5.2	109.2		
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	+1.6	+1.2	+0.6	−19.6	+3.4		+6.8	+2.9	+4.4	+11.4		−14.7	+11	+4½
on a year earlier	−4.6	−5.5	−5.1	−11.9	+25.3		+15.0	+20.7	+26.1	..		..	+23	+4½

p Provisional * After April 1973, affected by changes due to VAT † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100 .. not available
ø Average of 11 months e Figure is estimate ** Figure is projection

Energy Trends: energy consumption down again

Total inland energy consumption in November 1975 – on a primary fuel input basis – was nearly 10 per cent lower than in November 1974. Temperature corrected and seasonally adjusted, it was 9.6 per cent.

The annual rate of consumption in November, after seasonal adjustment and temperature correction, was just under 310 million tons coal equivalent (mtce). This, together with the August 1975 rate, was the lowest since early 1974 when consumption was seriously affected by the coal dispute.

Petroleum again bore the brunt of the reduction with consumption down by nearly 20 per cent. At 10.7 mtce it equalled the March figure as the lowest during 1975.

These facts are given in the January issue of *Energy Trends*, the Department of Energy's monthly statistical bulletin.

Provisional figures for the third quarter of 1975 by final users on a heat-supplied basis show a reduction of about 13 per cent on the comparable period of 1974. Temperature correction reduced that difference by about a third, since the July-September months of 1975 were much warmer, drier and sunnier than the year before.

The drop in consumption in the third quarter of 1975 covered all main consuming sectors. The steel industry showed the most dramatic fall of about 30 per cent; industry other than iron and steel consumed 15 per cent less, a further reflection of low industrial activity.

Consumption was also 15 per cent less in the domestic sector, with coal down by nearly a quarter. There was a much less marked decline of 8 per cent in domestic consumption of other solid fuels. The transport sector consumed only 2 per cent less than in the July-September quarter of 1974.

Total coal consumption in December 1975 was nearly 8 per cent higher than December 1974, which was an exceptionally warm month. This increase was due wholly to higher coal consumption at power stations where coal has more and more been used at the expense of oil.

Deep-mined coal production in December 1975 was about 3.5 per cent higher than in the same month of 1974 – largely due to a change in holiday patterns for the month.

Provisional figures for the year 1975 show that deep-mined production was about 2.5 million tons lower than in 1973 (the most recent comparable year), while opencast output rose to a little over 10 million tons, the highest for four years.

Tonnage lost as a result of disputes in 1975 was, at 347,000 tons, the lowest recorded in any year since nationalisation – with the exception of 1968.

After a five-month period of flattening demand, gas sent out in November 1975 turned back towards its former growth pattern with an increase of over 4 per cent compared with November 1974.

Total sales of gas for the third quarter of 1975 were however 5 per cent lower than in the comparable period of 1974. Domestic consumers used about 12 per cent less – probably as a result of warmer weather – and overall sales to industrial consumers were down by 2.5 per cent.

Sales to other consumers, mainly commercial, increased by 12 per cent, much in line with the continued penetration of this market by the industry in the last two years.

Total electricity sales fell by 7 per cent in the third quarter of 1975 compared with the same period of 1974. Domestic sales were down by almost 10 per cent, due primarily to the combined effects of a warm summer, higher prices and consumer economies. Sales to the iron and steel industry and to other industries were both 8 per cent lower in the third quarter, corresponding to a 9 per cent reduction in industrial output in that period.

Total electricity supplied in November 1975 was 8.5 per cent lower than in November 1974, though this narrows to about 7 per cent after adjustment for temperature.

Output of refined products in December 1975 was nearly a quarter less than in December 1974 and the decline was fairly evenly spread across the major product ranges. Inland deliveries of products were down by a fifth overall, with fuel oil lower by 28 per cent.

Crude oil production in December 1975 brought the total produced from the North Sea during the year beyond the 1 million ton mark, most of it being produced from the Forties field which came on-stream in early November.

Symbols used in all statistical tables

.. not available

— nil or less than half the final digit shown

p provisional

r revised

* five week period

ø fifty-three week period

Made-up clothing: orders and deliveries

In the three months ended October 1975, deliveries by the clothing industry were provisionally estimated to have been 3 per cent higher than in the preceding three months while net new orders were at the same level. Orders-on-hand at the end of October were 3 per cent below the end-July 1975 level. (These comparisons are based on the seasonally adjusted series in the accompanying table.)

In using the index numbers shown in the table, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with constructing a constant value series become more acute. Because of these difficulties the relative accuracy of the estimates is likely to have been reduced in recent months.

Made-up clothing

Index numbers of total orders and deliveries

		Orders-on-hand (end period)		Net new orders		Deliveries	
		December 1969 = 100		Average 1970 Deliveries = 100		Average 1970 Deliveries = 100	
1968		107		100		97	
1969		100		97		97	
1970		103		102		100	
1971		119		108		104	
1972		125		110		109	
1973		155		123		117	
1974		145		115		114	
		Actual	Season-ally adjusted	Actual	Season-ally adjusted	Actual	Season-ally adjusted
1974	1st quarter	164	161	111	115	107	108
	2nd quarter	171	149	122	113	113	115
	3rd quarter	137	143	96	113	115	117
	4th quarter	145	145	129	118	122	118
1975	1st quarter	135 r	139	116 r	124 r	116	121
	2nd quarter r	164	149	131	118	113	111
	3rd quarter	132	145	99	117	116	118
1974	January	166	157	96	112	92	110
	February	169	164	122	124	108	104
	March	164	161	116	109	122	110
	April	171	163	133	122	115	114
	May	182	155	134	109	108	113
	June	171	149	100	107	117	118
	July	156	149	85	113	112	116
	August	143	143	86	112	105	118
	September	137	143	116	114	129	116
	October	142	140	150	115	141	120
	November	152	141	153	122	130	118
	December	145	145	85	116	96	115
1975	January	138 r	137 r	101	119	103	124 r
	February	134	136	121	123	125	122 r
	March	135 r	139	124	129	120 r	119 r
	April r	147	146	134	111	117	106
	May r	166	148	145	119	108	114
	June r	164	149	115	124	113	114
	July	148	148	86	115	112	117
	August	135	142	86	111	106	119
	September	132	145	126	125	131	118
	October p	139	144	159	122	140	119

Insolvencies in England and Wales during the fourth quarter of 1975

After allowing for seasonal variation, company liquidations continued to rise in the fourth quarter of 1975, having increased continuously since mid-1973, and reached their highest level since at least the beginning of 1960. Receiving orders (including administration orders and deeds of arrangement) fell slightly in the fourth quarter offsetting the increase in the previous quarter but their level remained high.

Table 1 shows that, after seasonal adjustment, there were about 1,460 company liquidations in the fourth quarter of 1975, made up of about 640 compulsory liquidations and about 820 creditors' voluntary liquidations. The total is about 5 per cent higher than in the previous quarter and about 27 per cent higher than in the fourth quarter of 1974. Before seasonal adjustment, there were 1,703 company liquidations in the fourth quarter of 1975, made up of 873 compulsory liquidations and 830 creditors' voluntary liquidations.

Table 1 also shows that, after seasonal adjustment, there were about 1,770 receiving orders made in the fourth quarter of 1975 (including administration orders and deeds of arrangement), a fall of about 7 per cent compared with the previous quarter but an increase of about 8 per cent compared with the fourth quarter of 1974. Before seasonal adjustment the figure for receiving orders in the fourth quarter of 1975 was 1,821.

The chart illustrates the quarterly, seasonally adjusted figures for receiving orders (including administration orders and deeds of arrangement) and company liquidations since the beginning of 1968. As the chart shows, there was a general fall in the number of insolvencies from mid-1970 to mid-1973 followed by a sharp rise. The number of receiving orders has generally levelled off during 1975, but there is as yet no sign of any levelling off in the numbr of company liquidations.

Industrial analysis

Table 2 gives the industrial analysis of receiving orders administered (including administration orders and deeds of arrangement) up to the third quarter of 1975. This table excludes orders which were rescinded before the business of the debtor could be investigated; the quarterly totals therefore do not agree with those of Table 1, which are for all receiving orders, administration orders and deeds of arrangement made during the quarter. The table shows that there has been very little change in the industrial analysis of receiving orders since the beginning of 1975. In the third quarter, receiving orders for self-employed persons remained at about two-thirds of the total, within which about 16 per cent of the total were in distribution and under 3 per cent in manufacturing, as in the two previous quarters. There was a slight fall in the percentage in construction, although this remained the largest single category at about one-fifth of the total.

Table 3, which gives the industrial analysis of company liquidations, also shows little change since the beginning of 1975. Comparing the third quarter with the previous quarter, there was a slight increase in the percentage of liquidations in manufacturing, from 22 to 26 per cent, and a fall in the percentage in construction, from 21 to 16 per cent; other changes between the last two quarters were very small.

Such changes in the industrial analyses should not be regarded as significant, if only because of the difficulty of making a precise industrial classification in many cases.

TABLE 1 **Insolvencies**

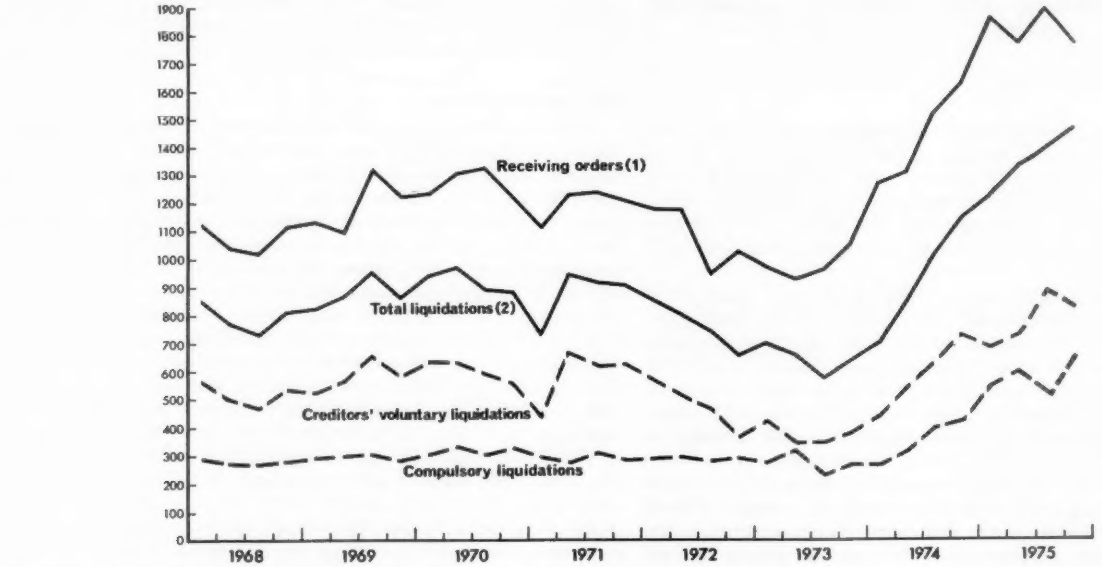
England and Wales

Number

	Bankruptcies					Company liquidations					
	Unadjusted				Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted			Seasonally adjusted		
	Total	Receiving orders	Administration orders	Deeds of arrangement	Total	Total	Compulsory	Creditors' voluntary	Total	Compulsory	Creditors' voluntary
1968	4,298	4,123	27	148		3,165	1,108	2,057			
1969	4,772	4,532	20	220		3,510	1,181	2,329			
1970	5,087	4,878	29	180		3,689	1,269	2,420			
1971	4,793	4,630	13	150		3,506	1,166	2,340			
1972	4,337	4,225	19	93		3,063	1,150	1,913			
1973	3,917	3,805	12	100		2,575	1,080	1,495			
1974	5,718	5,595	13	110		3,720	1,395	2,325			
1975	7,294	7,146	20	128		5,396	2,285	3,111			
1968 1st quarter	1,231	1,190		41	1,121	897	307	590	850	287	563
2nd quarter	1,024	985		39	1,040	775	279	496	772	271	501
3rd quarter	932	907		25	1,020	586	148	438	731	270	461
4th quarter	1,111	1,068		43	1,117	907	374	533	812	280	532
1969 1st quarter	1,231	1,173		58	1,135	872	318	554	824	296	528
2nd quarter	1,095	1,055		40	1,094	871	308	563	864	298	566
3rd quarter	1,215	1,157		58	1,319	798	171	627	957	305	652
4th quarter	1,231	1,167		64	1,224	969	384	585	865	282	583
1970 1st quarter	1,314	1,273		41	1,236	981	318	663	942	305	637
2nd quarter	1,321	1,280		41	1,308	966	339	627	971	335	636
3rd quarter	1,219	1,174		45	1,324	744	169	575	893	303	590
4th quarter	1,233	1,180		53	1,219	998	443	555	883	326	557
1971 1st quarter	1,171	1,145		26	1,116	760	310	450	731	299	432
2nd quarter	1,253	1,205		48	1,230	945	285	660	945	280	665
3rd quarter	1,137	1,092		45	1,238	777	172	605	920	302	618
4th quarter	1,232	1,201		31	1,209	1,024	399	625	910	285	625
1972 1st quarter	1,222	1,197		25	1,180	877	291	586	856	288	568
2nd quarter	1,200	1,175		25	1,177	799	293	506	804	293	511
3rd quarter	866	844		22	950	614	160	454	746	280	466
4th quarter	1,049	1,028		21	1,030	773	406	367	657	289	368
1973 1st quarter	1,011	982		29	973	710	273	437	700	275	425
2nd quarter	952	919		33	931	653	308	345	660	312	348
3rd quarter	875	858		17	961	463	130	333	574	230	344
4th quarter	1,079	1,058		21	1,052	749	369	380	641	263	378
1974 1st quarter	1,322	1,296		26	1,269	713	264	449	701	266	435
2nd quarter	1,341	1,314		27	1,307	844	309	535	849	312	537
3rd quarter	1,377	1,355		22	1,515	829	224	605	1,018	394	624
4th quarter	1,678	1,643		35	1,627	1,334	598	736	1,152	423	729
1975 1st quarter	1,938	1,900		38	1,861	1,238	540	698	1,218	541	677
2nd quarter	1,816	1,783		33	1,774	1,317	593	724	1,323	595	728
3rd quarter	1,719	1,693		26	1,894	1,138	279	859	1,391	507	884
4th quarter	1,821	1,790		31	1,765	1,703	873	830	1,464	642	822

Insolvencies in England and Wales

Number per quarter, seasonally adjusted



(1) Including administration orders and deeds of arrangement. (2) Compulsory plus creditors' voluntary liquidations.

High Court and County Court figures

The figures for receiving and administration orders and compulsory liquidation winding-up-orders made in the High Court and County Courts during the fourth quarter of 1975 and the four preceding quarters are as follows:

	1974	1975			
	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.
Receiving and administration orders					
High Court	442	458	445	334	495
County Courts	1,201	1,442	1,338	1,359	1,295
Total	1,643	1,900	1,783	1,693	1,790
Compulsory liquidation winding-up orders					
High Court	515	446	461	175	742
County Courts	83	94	132	104	131
Total	598	540	593	279	873

Notes

An article describing these statistics and giving quarterly figures from the beginning of 1960 to the end of 1974 (with industrial analyses from the beginning of 1969 to the third quarter of 1974) was published in *Economic Trends* for March 1975.

The figures for bankruptcies in Table 1 refer to persons, who are dealt with under the Bankruptcy Act 1914 and the Bankruptcy (Amendment) Act 1926 or who make arrangements with their creditors under the Deeds of Arrangement Act 1914. A receiving order is made by the court on the petition of a creditor if it is satisfied that the debtor has committed an act of bankruptcy, as listed in Section 1 of the Bankruptcy Act 1914, or on the petition of the debtor himself. The order makes the official receiver, who is an officer of the court, receiver of the debtor's estate and deprives the debtor of the right to deal with it. Administration orders, which are made under Section 130 of the Bankruptcy Act 1914, relate to deceased insolvents. Deeds of arrangement relate to arrangements between debtors and creditors that are reached, without recourse to the courts, under the Deeds of Arrangement Act 1914.

Insolvent partnerships are dealt with under the Bankruptcy Acts and are included in the figures for receiving orders in Table 1. A single receiving order may be made against a partnership or receiving orders may be made against partners individually, when each is included in Table 1. If separate receiving orders are made, they are consolidated before being proceeded with and appear as a single receiving order in Table 2.

Receiving orders administered, referred to in Table 2, are those receiving orders not consolidated or rescinded before the end of the year. For the first three quarters of the year the industrial analysis in Table 2 is compiled about two months after the end of the quarter, to allow time for the statistics to be collected. Some of these receiving orders may later be rescinded. The analysis for the fourth quarter is obtained by subtracting the figures for the first three quarters from the figures for the full year. This results in the figures for the fourth quarter being understated compared with the other quarters, but the anomaly is probably not serious when the analysis is viewed in percentage terms.

Insolvent companies are dealt with under the Companies Acts 1948 and 1967 and the figures for company liquidations in Table 1 refer to the two types of liquidation that involve insolvency. The figures for compulsory liquidations relate to winding-up orders made by the courts. The figures for creditors' voluntary liquidations, in which the company and its creditors come to terms without court proceedings, relate to notifications of resolutions to wind up. There is a third type, members' voluntary liquidations; these do not involve insolvency and they are not included in the figures in this article.

There is considerable seasonal variation between quarters in the insolvency series, mainly because about 25 per cent of all receiving orders and about 80 per cent of all compulsory liquidations are dealt with by the High Court, which has fewer sittings in the third quarter compared with other quarters because of the long vacation. For receiving orders, the seasonal fall in the third quarter is made up in each of the other quarters approximately equally. Compulsory liquidations are more strongly seasonal, with a large fall in the third quarter followed by a large rise in the fourth. Creditor's voluntary liquidations are not particularly seasonal but seasonally adjusted figures for them are included in Table 1.

Questions are often asked about the distribution of insolvencies by size or by region but it would be impracticable or very costly to assemble statistics of this sort. There is no satisfactory measure of the size of an insolvency because a business tends to decline over a period and there are the problems of deciding for what time the size should be assessed and what measure should be used, and of obtaining this information retrospectively.

For regional statistics of bankruptcy, figures for receiving orders dealt with in the various courts provide some basis because cases are transferred to the court for the area in which the debtor lives or has his place of business. Annual figures for receiving orders analysed by court are given in the Bankruptcy General Annual Report. Regional statistics of company liquidations cannot be obtained in this way because of the large proportion of cases dealt with by the High Court. There is also the difficulty that, although the address of the company's registered office may be known, the activities of the company are often located elsewhere and often extend over a wide area.

TABLE 2 Industrial analysis of receiving orders administered(1)

England and Wales

	Numbers							Percentages						
			1974		1975					1974		1975		
Industry	1973	1974	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	1973	1974	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.
Self-employed														
Agriculture	71	90	20	36	34	37	28	2.0	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.4	1.9
Manufacturing:														
Food, drink and tobacco	4	4	—	3	—	—	—	0.1	0.1	—	0.2	—	—	—
Chemicals	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metals and engineering	59	45	10	9	11	14	17	1.7	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.1
Textiles and clothing	26	35	16	6	6	8	8	0.7	0.7	1.4	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5
Timber and furniture	19	36	3	16	12	12	9	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.6
Paper, printing and publishing	15	21	—	12	2	9	3	0.4	0.4	—	0.7	0.1	0.6	0.2
Other manufacturing	12	11	—	5	5	—	4	0.3	0.2	—	0.3	0.3	—	0.3
Total manufacturing	136	152	29	51	36	43	41	3.9	2.9	2.5	2.8	2.1	2.8	2.8
Construction	741	1,056	239	288	437	367	283	21.3	19.9	21.0	16.0	25.1	23.5	19.1
Road haulage	112	342	59	126	114	88	96	3.2	6.4	5.2	7.0	6.5	5.6	6.5
Wholesaling:														
Consumer goods	60	42	7	—	16	16	9	1.7	0.8	0.6	—	0.9	1.0	0.6
Non-consumer goods	83	55	7	18	21	11	12	2.4	1.0	0.6	1.0	1.2	0.7	0.8
Retailing:														
Food	247	345	77	113	95	79	75	7.1	6.5	6.8	6.3	5.5	5.1	5.1
Non-food	396	576	118	240	167	148	146	11.4	10.8	10.4	13.3	9.6	9.5	9.8
Finance and professional services	158	237	71	23	69	74	72	4.5	4.5	6.2	1.3	4.0	4.7	4.8
Hotels and restaurants	157	213	37	76	59	55	71	4.5	4.0	3.2	4.2	3.4	3.5	4.8
Garages	186	198	34	64	62	41	50	5.4	3.7	3.0	3.6	3.6	2.6	3.4
Other consumer services	162	195	48	21	45	54	47	4.7	3.7	4.2	1.2	2.6	3.5	3.2
Other industries	46	31	7	8	19	12	10	1.3	0.6	0.6	0.4	1.1	0.8	0.7
Total	2,555	3,532	753	1,064	1,174	1,025	940	73.5	66.5	66.1	59.0	67.4	65.7	63.3
Other individuals														
Employees, no occupation and unemployed	684	1,485	333	604	456	431	450	19.7	27.9	29.2	33.5	26.2	27.6	30.3
Directors and promoters of companies	193	244	36	127	84	69	67	5.6	4.6	3.2	7.0	4.8	4.4	4.5
Occupation unknown	43	53	17	7	27	35	28	1.2	1.0	1.5	0.4	1.6	2.2	1.9
Total	920	1,782	386	738	567	535	545	26.5	33.5	33.9	41.0	32.6	34.3	36.7
All receiving orders administered	3,475	5,314	1,139	1,802	1,741	1,560	1,485	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note:

(1) Receiving orders made during the year, *less* those consolidated or rescinded before the end of the year, together with administration orders and deeds of arrangement on the same basis.

The totals for all receiving orders administered are thus not equal to the totals shown in Table 1. The construction of the quarterly figures is explained in the notes at the end of the article.

TABLE 3 Industrial analysis of total compulsory and creditors' voluntary liquidations

England and Wales

	Numbers							Percentages						
			1974		1975					1974		1975		
Industry	1973	1974	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	1973	1974	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.
Agriculture	9	16	3	6	6	13	16	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	1.0	1.4
Manufacturing:														
Food, drink and tobacco	35	62	19	17	20	9	18	1.4	1.7	2.3	1.3	1.6	0.7	1.6
Chemicals	22	33	10	11	11	5	19	0.9	0.9	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.4	1.7
Metals and engineering	253	323	86	99	90	99	95	9.8	8.7	10.4	7.4	7.3	7.5	8.3
Textiles and clothing	124	171	51	54	37	63	56	4.8	4.6	6.2	4.0	3.0	4.8	4.9
Timber and furniture	61	124	33	42	35	31	22	2.4	3.3	4.0	3.1	2.8	2.4	1.9
Paper, printing and publishing	116	124	32	54	46	44	43	4.5	3.3	3.9	4.0	3.7	3.3	3.8
Other manufacturing	111	109	17	42	48	41	42	4.3	2.9	2.1	3.1	3.9	3.1	3.7
Total manufacturing	722	946	248	319	287	292	295	28.0	25.4	29.9	23.9	23.2	22.2	25.9
Construction	500	776	162	269	240	277	182	19.4	20.9	19.5	20.2	19.4	21.0	16.0
Road haulage	139	213	53	73	71	76	83	5.4	5.7	6.4	5.5	5.7	5.8	7.3
Wholesaling:														
Consumer goods	114	130	23	56	37	34	30	4.4	3.5	2.8	4.2	3.0	2.6	2.6
Non-consumer goods	119	191	40	74	95	73	68	4.6	5.1	4.8	5.5	7.7	5.5	6.0
Retailing														
Food	76	81	13	24	23	28	31	3.0	2.2	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.7
Non-food	233	270	59	93	103	100	79	9.0	7.3	7.1	7.0	8.3	7.6	6.9
Financial and professional services	354	612	146	214	219	210	188	13.7	16.5	17.6	16.0	17.7	15.9	16.5
Hotels and restaurants	55	136	24	57	33	43	37	2.1	3.7	2.9	4.3	2.7	3.3	3.3
Garages	55	74	11	25	26	41	17	2.1	2.0	1.3	1.9	2.1	3.1	1.5
Other consumer services	75	81	14	41	28	39	37	2.9	2.2	1.7	3.1	2.3	3.0	3.3
Other industries	124	194	33	83	70	91	75	4.8	5.2	4.0	6.2	5.7	6.9	6.6
Total	2,575	3,720	829	1,334	1,238	1,317	1,138	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Business Monitor

The following titles and issues of Business Monitor are now available:

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- PQ 361 Electrical machinery for second quarter 1975
- PQ 369.2 Primary and secondary batteries for third quarter 1975
- PQ 399.6 Metal hollow-ware for third quarter 1975
- PQ 442 Men's and boys' tailored outerwear for third quarter 1975
- PQ 480 Packaging products for second quarter 1975
- PQ 482.2 Miscellaneous packaging products of paper and film for third quarter 1975
- PQ 495 Miscellaneous stationers' goods for third quarter 1975

Business Monitors in the Production series and Miscellaneous series, and certain Monitors (Nos. SD 1 to SD 9) in the Service and Distributive series, are normally available by annual subscription from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH. Copies of specific issues (including back issues) can be ordered by post (payable in advance) from the Library at the Business Statistics Office, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent NPT 1XG (tel. 0633 56111, ext. 2973; telex 497121/497122 – Answer back BSO Newport), from which a complete list of the titles of Business Monitors is available on application. Back issues of the monthly and quarterly Monitors cost 30p a copy post free. The annual Monitors are individually priced, and the cost of these will be supplied on request. Exceptionally, copies can also be purchased over the counter at either the Department of Industry Central Library, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, or the Department's Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU.

The Annual Census of Production Reports (the PA series of Monitors), and the 1971 Census of Distribution Reports (which are being published as Monitors SD 10 to SD 23, though not all are yet available) can be obtained on standing order from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, or can be purchased separately from the Government Bookshops or through booksellers.

Patent Office publications for industry

The Patent Office offers industry a wide range of publications. These include the Official Journal (Patents), the Trade Marks Journal, British Patent Specifications, Illustrated Abridgements of Patent Specifications, Reports of Patent, Design and Trade Mark Cases, and 50-year subject matter file lists of British Patent Specifications. Details of these and other publications may be obtained by post from Sale Branch, the Patent Office, Orpington, Kent BR5 3RD; or by personal application at the Public Sale Counter of the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, London, WC2.

New companies incorporated in Northern Ireland during December 1975

During December 56 private companies with a total nominal capital of £1,218,200 were incorporated in Northern Ireland.

During the period January to December 571 companies with a total nominal capital of £16,717,525 were incorporated as compared with 573 companies with a total nominal capital of £10,189,950 incorporated in the same period in 1974.

Cinema admissions and takings in October 1975

During October, counted as a 4 week period, the weekly average of admissions to cinemas in Great Britain was 2.02 million and the weekly average of gross box office takings was £1.37 million. The comparable figures for October 1974 were 2.44 and £1.26 million respectively.

Registrations of British, Community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday 30 January 1976.

BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
Review No. 5 (29th Year)	BR/E 38432/31/1/81	10	27 January	Data Film Distributors Ltd.	National Coal Board
Movietone News 2434	BR/E 38342/31/1/81	8	30 January	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
			COMMUNITY		
Figures . . . Facts . . . Data . . .	EC 38440/31/1/81	10	29 January	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd.	Insel Film Produktions-Gesellschaft, Norbert Handwerk and Partner, Munich
			FOREIGN		
Deranged	F 38429	79	26 January	New Realm Distributors Ltd.	American International Pictures Corporation, California
Lucky Lady	F 38430	117	26 January	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	Stanley Donen Enterprises Ltd., London
Hustle	F 38431	118	27 January	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Robort Productions, California
A Woman Under The Influence	F 38433	145	29 January	Jo Lustig Distributors	Faces International Films Inc., California
Breakheart Pass	F 38434	94	29 January	United Artists Corporation Ltd.	The Breakheart Pass Co., California
Naked Revenge	F 38435	86	29 January	Hemdale International Films Ltd.	Brut Productions Inc., New York
Miracles Still Happen	F 38436	93	29 January	Hemdale International Films Ltd.	Brut Productions Inc., New York
Welcome To Arrow Beach	F 38437	95	29 January	Hemdale International Films Ltd.	Brut Productions Inc., New York
Hang-up	F 38438	90	29 January	Hemdale International Films Ltd.	Brut Productions Inc., New York
Rachel's Man	F 38439	107	29 January	Hemdale International Films Ltd.	Loraglade Ltd., Middlesex

Index to statistics and organisational information published regularly in 'Trade and Industry'

A = annually M = monthly Q = quarterly 6M = every six months.

Title	Last published
Air transport: trade by air (6M)	28 Nov. 1975
Balance of payments:	
current account (M)	23 Jan. 1976
trends in invisible transactions (Q)	17 Oct. 1975
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Bankruptcies *see* Insolvencies	
Business names and limited partnerships (A)	30 Jan. 1975
Capital expenditure: manufacturing, distributive and service industries (Q)	9 Jan. 1976
Catering trades turnover (M)	16 Jan. 1976
Census of production (A)	19 Dec. 1974
(amendment)	16 Jan. 1975
Chemicals industry activity (Q)	2 Jan. 1976
Companies:	
acquisitions and mergers (Q)	21 Nov. 1975
insolvencies (Q)	This week
liquidity (Q)	12 Dec. 1975
new registrations:	
Gt. Britain (M)	19 Dec. 1975
N. Ireland (M)	This week
rate of return on capital	24 Oct. 1975
Construction work overseas (A)	17 Oct. 1975
EEC economic indicators	This week
Energy trends (M)	This week
Engineering industries: sales and orders (M)	30 Jan. 1976
Film industry	
British Film Fund Agency returns (M)	16 Jan. 1976
cinema admissions and takings (M)	This week
overseas payments and earnings (A)	8 Aug. 1975
registrations of films (A)	30 Jan. 1976
Food:	
consumption levels (6M)	10 Oct. 1975
household consumption (Q)	16 Jan. 1976
Footwear industry: production, orders and deliveries (M)	30 Jan. 1976
Foreign exchange: official reserves (M)	16 Jan. 1976
Foreign trade: industrial countries' production and trade (Q)	9 Jan. 1976
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Hire-purchase business (M)	16 Jan. 1976
Industrial production:	
index numbers (M)	30 Jan. 1976
N. Ireland index (M)	21 Nov. 1975
Wales	16 Jan. 1976
Insurance companies: investments and assets (A)	22 Aug. 1975
Investment:	
book values of overseas direct investments (every 3 years)	15 Nov. 1973
industry's investment intentions (3 times a year)	9 Jan. 1976
investment and earnings overseas (A)	14 Mar. 1975
(amendment)	21 Mar. 1975
Man-made fibres:	
deliveries (Q)	21 Nov. 1975
production (M)	12 Dec. 1975
production: quarterly analysis (Q)	21 Nov. 1975
Metal working machine tools: sales and orders (M)	19 Dec. 1975
Motor industry:	
car and commercial vehicle production (M)	30 Jan. 1976
estimated figures (M)	16 Jan. 1976
motor trade turnover (Q)	21 Nov. 1975
Office development permits (Q)	21 Nov. 1975
Overseas trade of the UK:	
direct exporters and credit terms (A)	11 Apr. 1975
analysis of trends (Q)	5 Dec. 1975
(*see also* Balance of payments)	
Pension funds: investments and assets (A)	22 Aug. 1975
Regional development grants (Q)	30 Jan. 1976
Regional selective assistance (M)	23 Jan. 1976
Retail prices index (M)	23 Jan. 1976
Retail trades:	
sales (M)	16 Jan. 1976
provisional figures (M)	23 Jan. 1976
sales, N. Ireland (M)	2 Jan. 1976
stocks (M)	23 Jan. 1976
Royalties: overseas transactions (A)	11 Apr. 1975
Shipping: nationality of vessels in UK sea-borne trade (A)	23 Jan. 1975
Steel consumption and stocks (Q)	2 Jan. 1976
Stocks:	
manufacturers' and distributors' quarterly figures (Q)	9 Jan. 1976
manufacturers' stocks: monthly estimates (M)	30 Jan. 1976
retail (M)	28 Nov. 1975
Television: overseas payments and earnings (A)	8 Aug. 1975
Textiles:	
activity in the industry (Q)	16 Jan. 1976
carpet sales (M)	30 Jan. 1976
cotton industry production (M)	30 Jan. 1976
hosiery production (M)	30 Jan. 1976
made-up clothing: orders and deliveries (M)	This week
wholesale houses' sales (M)	30 Jan. 1976
wool exports (Q)	28 Nov. 1975
wool output (M)	30 Jan. 1976
Tourism:	
foreign visitor arrivals (M)	30 Jan. 1976
overseas travel and tourism (Q)	23 Jan. 1976
Wholesale prices:	
average prices of selected commodities (A)	13 June 1975
index numbers (M)	23 Jan. 1976

Departmental organisations, etc.

Subjects	Last published
British commercial representations overseas	3 Oct. 1975
Customs notices of interest to exporters	This week
ECGD local offices	This week
Guide to Departments	21 Nov. 1975
Official Receivers' offices	30 Jan. 1976
Programme of trade promotions	16 Jan. 1976
Release dates of economic statistics	30 Jan. 1976

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

Semi-display £2.40 per s.c.c. Run-on linage 60p per line (minimum 4 lines). Box No. 50p. Orders for advertisements should be addressed to T. G. Scott and Son Ltd., 1 Clement's Inn, London WC2A 2ED.

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BALL AND ROLLER BEARINGS, Steelballs and surplus goods (tools etc.) wanted and sold—metal ammo boxes, useful for storage, transport, shelving in quantity only etc. for sale. Details: R. Pordes, 529B, Finchley Road, London, NW3. 01-435 9878/9. (12)

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 437, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

Government Sales

Ministry of Defence

26 February 1976 Miscellaneous stores

Location: The Post House, Herbert Walker Avenue, Southampton SO1 0HJ

Auctioneers: Richard Austin and Wyatt (Dept. L), 79 High Street, Fareham, Hants PO16 7AX (tel. 03292-4211)

The lots which are lying in various depots in Hampshire include two Coles 5-ton cranes, three towed scrapers, Caterpillar tractor, excavator crane, fork lift trucks and 65 machine tools. Binoculars, compressors, fire pumps, electrical and MT spares, tools, tyres, winches, aluminium, etc. 300 lots of furniture including bureaux, chairs, desks, lockers, settees, wardrobes and other items. 260 lots of clothing and textiles including blankets, bedspreads, carpets, jerseys, raincoats, rags, trousers, boots and shoes and a large collection of Service items.

Catalogues for the above sale which gives details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc., are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 10p (postal orders only).

Export publicity for industry

Publicity for British exporters can often be obtained through use of the facilities of the Central Office of Information, who are concerned with collecting from industry items suitable for dissemination overseas by way of Government information services. The COI are interested in news items, feature article material, photographs, tape recordings for radio, and films for television and other screening. Contact should be made with the nearest Regional Office covering your area.

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Yorkshire & Humberside: Mr T. Cooban, City House, Leeds LS1 4JG (Tel: 38232 – Telex Econ Plan 55472 – message to be prefixed for COI).

East Midland: To be appointed, Cranbrook House, Cranbrook Street, Nottingham NG1 1EW (Tel: 46121 – Telex 37572).

Eastern: Mr A. A. McLoughlin, Block D, Government Buildings, Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge CB2 2DF (Tel: 58911 – Telex 81187).

London & South Eastern*: Mr R. Dean, OBE, St. Christopher House Annexe, Sumner Street, London, SE1 (Tel: 01-928 2371 – Telex 918881 message to be prefixed for London Region).

Southern: Mr A. S. Poole, Market Place House, Reading RG1 2EH (Tel: 581261 – Telex 848216).

South Western: Mr W. J. D. Irving, MVO, The Pithay, Bristol BS1 2NF (Tel: 291071 – Telex 44203).

Midland: Mr D. C. Boyd, Five Ways House, Islington Row, Birmingham B15 1SH (Tel: 021-643 8191 – Telex 33376).

North Western: Mr H. V. Tillotson, MVO, 22nd floor, Sunley Building, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BD (Tel: 061-832 9111 – Telex 667830).

Scottish Office: Mr C. MacGregor, MBE, Scottish Information Office, New St. Andrew's House, St. James Centre, Edinburgh EH1 3TD (Tel: 031-556 8400).

Ulster Office: Northern Ireland Information Service, Stormont Castle, Belfast BT4 3ST (Tel: 63011).

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* National companies in central London, and particularly those with UK subsidiaries or branches, which require overseas publicity should consult Industrial Section at COI Headquarters: Mr E. Turnbull, Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, London SE1 7DU (Tel: 01-938 2345 ext. 271 – Telex 915444).

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